



Bohol:
Jewel of
the South

FPJ rally
denied permit
by Atienza

Samar mayor
held hostage
by NPA

Lakers, Spurs
take 2-0 leads



Henry Sy bid
to enter Equitable
PCIBank fails

Pasa-sa-asawa ang
punitika sa Camanava:
Abuso na ba?



MALONZO, SANDOVAL, CARLOS ATBP

Who's Ho? 2 top execs return honorary degrees

ANGELES CITY—In another rebuke of the Angeles University Foundation for its conferment of an honorary degree on gambling mogul Stanley Ho, two former government officials have decided to return their own honorary doctorates from the same institution.

Jose Cuisia, a former governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and Jesus Es-

WHO'S/A20

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, April 21, 2004 ★★ 64 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 133

P18

website: www.inq7.net

Largest US pension fund to stay in RP

*Stocks,
peso rise
in wake
of decision*

By Doris C. Dumlaog, Elizabeth
L. Sanchez, Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Michelle V. Remo

THE UNITED States' biggest pension fund, which had threatened to yank its multimillion-dollar investment out of the Philippines, decided yesterday to stay.

The reversal helped boost the local stock market, and President Macapagal-Arroyo, facing a tough election battle in three weeks, revealed at the news.

The peso averaged at P55.61 against the dollar mid-day yesterday, from P55.62 the other day, its strongest in three months.

After months of intense lobbying by a Philippine delegation, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) yesterday retained the Philippines on its list of "permissible" investment sites and gave the country its best score after three years of poor ratings.

The meeting at the CalPERS auditorium in Sacramento, California, was joined by a standing-room-only crowd, including about 600 Filipino-Americans, who gave the CalPERS committee a standing ovation for the vote.

CalPERS, which had just under \$2 billion invested in emerging markets last year, has a reputation as an influential market watchdog and advocate for corporate reform. Its moves are widely watched—and imitated—by other international investors.

LARGEST/A20



MELON-CHOLY

Summertime ... and ripe, red, juicy watermelons are easy to come by. Well, perhaps not all the time and certainly not for everybody, which is why this boy is relishing every thirst-quenching bite, every sink of his little teeth into the soft, moist coolness. His eyes say it best.

FPJ warns Ping time fast running out

By Carlito Pablo,
Norman Bordadora
and Armand N. Nocum

ACTOR Fernando Poe Jr. is getting impatient over delays in the holding of talks with rival opposition presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson, warning that all may be too late if unification efforts drag beyond the end of the month.

"That's it. I'm getting impatient," Poe told reporters on Monday evening at a rally of his Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino in Quezon City after his meeting with Lacson did not push through because of their "conflicting schedules."

Political analysts are saying that a divided opposition cannot stand a chance against President Macapagal-Arroyo who has

gained the lead over Poe.

Asked if the opposition could wait until May for unity, Poe said, "It's too late."

He said the talks "should no longer be delayed."

The Poe and Lacson camps have accused each other of being responsible for the failure of the two opposition presidential candidates to meet on the 67th birthday of deposed President Joseph

Estrada. The former President is a close associate of both Poe and Lacson but he is backing Poe.

Asked to comment on Poe's impatience, Lacson said: "Then, we go our separate ways. May the best candidate beat (Ms Macapagal)."

"If he's getting impatient, what can I do? I also have other important things to attend to," Lacson told the INQUIRER.

FPJ/A7

BRO. EDDIE/A8

Pope tells Filipinos to vote for honest officials



NEW Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Leonida Vera listens intently to Pope John Paul II while presenting her diplomatic credentials at the Vatican on Monday.

By Blanche S. Rivera and Jerome Aning

VOTE for public servants who are honest in their personal and public lives and who offer unconditional service to their constituents.

This was a reminder from Pope John Paul II to the Filipinos, as they prepare to vote on May 10, an exercise that, he said, should produce a stronger Philippines.

In a message relayed yesterday to the new Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, Leonida Vera, the Pope said public servants in this predominantly Catholic nation should be role models of moral behavior, and should help others use their "conscience, which at all times, shuns any type of graft and corruption."

"Building a society based on human dignity can only be achieved when those in authority espouse the principles of right governance and honesty in their personal and public lives and offer unconditional service to their fellow citizens for their common good," the Pope said in his address. "These qualities of genuine leadership are of special concern as your country prepares for the coming elections."

He reminded Filipinos that fair, honest and free elections which uphold the rule of law are the true measure of the success of democracy in a country.

"In this regard, I am confident that the good will of those involved in the elections

POPE/A22

2 killed in election violence in Albay

By Michael Jaucian
and Joyce Mejillano
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LIGAO CITY—A sponsor of the campaign materials of a gubernatorial candidate in Albay was gunned down yesterday inside his hardware in Barangay Dunao here. Also killed was his driver.

Chief Insp. Arnel Rabe, Ligao police chief, identified the victims as Ruben Quililan, 43, of Barangay Batang, and Jeremias Lladones, a retired police officer. They were shot with .45 cal. pistols.

Ligao City Mayor Fernando Gonzalez, who is running for governor, said he was expecting Quililan at his place at 7:30 a.m. for a meeting when the shooting occurred.

"Why would innocent persons like Quililan be killed?" asked Gonzalez, who is running against four other gubernatorial candidates, including Alfonso Bichara, father of outgoing Gov. Al Francis Bichara. The governor's brother, Steve, is running for mayor against Gonzalez's wife in Ligao City.

"If they feel insecure (referring

2 KILLED/A4

Bro. Eddie No. 1 in job interview

By Blanche S. Rivera

FROM the results of the job interviews conducted last month by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines with the presidential candidates, evangelist Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva appeared to be the most qualified.

Villanueva, standard-bearer of the Bangon Pilipinas, showed himself to be a mobilizer, guardian and captivator—three of five competencies that, according to the PMAP, are required of a president.

FPJ/A7

BRO. EDDIE/A8



SC asked to stop 'psychedelic dream'

By Philip C. Tubeza

ENOUGH already.

Likening businessman Eddie Gil to the fictional "emperor with no clothes," the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday asked the Supreme Court to put an end to his "psychedelic dream" of becoming president of the Philippines.

The Comelec said the high court could do this by (1) immediately lifting the status quo order that it issued last week, (2) dismissing Gil's petition for the poll body to recognize him as a legit-

SC ASKED/A8



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAYLEY SA. PDR: SEARCH/04/21/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Halo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Miriam rails vs TV spending



By Martin P. Marfil

ONLY billionaires and moneyed candidates will be able to get into the Senate if the Commission on Elections fails to restrict overspending in broadcast advertisements, administration senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago warned yesterday.

Santiago pointed out that most of those who made it to the magic circle of 12 senatorial candidates in the latest voter preference surveys have had extensive television advertising exposure in the past few months.

"Since TV ads are allowed by

law to continue until May 8, it is highly likely that most, if not all, of the present top 12 advertisers will also exceed the 120-minute limit," she said.

"Thus, to be included in the top 12 survey ratings, a candidate would have to spend some P50

million in TV ads alone," Santiago said, noting that the No. 1 candidate has already placed an excessive 214 minutes while candidate No. 12 logged only 47.30 minutes.

Poor candidates would have no equal access to opportunities in public service, she said.

Santiago, an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo who is also being accused of violating television advertising limits, yesterday filed a petition asking the Comelec to prevent broadcast overspending by her rivals.

But she said the petition was

limited only to senatorial candidates as Ms Macapagal, a sitting President, is immune from suit unlike incumbent senators.

She pointed out that if the Comelec does not restrict television spending, candidates would have to shell out more money for television and radio advertising.

Based on her own figures of 107 television and cable stations, with each candidate given an allotment of 120 minutes at P400,000 per minute of advertising for each station.

This would translate to a total of 12,840 minutes per candidate

and an estimate would show that each candidate would then have to allot more than P5 billion each for television advertising alone.

According to the former senator, her staff compared the candidates' paid television and radio advertisements in leading broadcast stations with the results of the recent surveys of the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia.

They concluded that there could be a relationship between the ads and the candidates' ranking in the surveys.

She said the list of advertisements was supplied by a monitoring agency which she did not identify and the monitoring was carried out during the period Feb. 10 to April 13.

The monitoring report showed that of the top 12 candidates who logged a lot of television time, only Sen. Robert Jaworski, Jamby Madrigal and Pia Cayetano were not in the top 12 list of "winning" candidates based on an SWS survey.

Madrigal was ranked 7 to 14 in the Pulse Asia survey.

Opposition candidates Jinggo Estrada, who only logged 42.45 television minutes, and Aquilino Pimentel who only had 15.30 minutes of television ads, made it to the winning circle in both the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys.

The other candidate in the SWS winners' circle was Orlando Mercado, who logged only 21.45 minutes although he was ranked no. 13 to 17 in the Pulse Asia survey.

The television monitoring showed actor Ramon "Bong" Revilla leading the pack with 214 television minutes, followed by former trade secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas who had 188.15 minutes, former senator Ernesto Maceda with 159.15 and former tourism secretary Richard "Dick" Gordon with 130 minutes.

Sen. Robert Barbers logged 105.15 minutes while Juan Ponce Enrile had 99, Alfredo Lim 96.30, Jamby Madrigal 79.30, Pia Cayetano 68, John Osmeña 59.30 minutes, Santiago 47.45 and Jaworski 47.45 minutes.

According to Santiago, four of the candidates—Revilla, Roxas, Maceda and Gordon—violated the 120-minute limit for television ads based on the monitoring.

As to radio advertising, Santiago said that seven candidates violated the 180-minute limit. These were Roxas with 3,926.30 minutes, Enrile with 2,924 minutes, Heherson Alvarez with 2,526, Osmeña with 910, Mercado with 450, Gordon with 442 and Pimentel with 336.

In her petition, Santiago asked the Comelec to implement the 120-minute limit for television advertising and the 180-minute radio limit.

She said a Comelec resolution which raised the limits to 120 per television station and 180 minutes per radio station was never published and therefore could not be considered in effect.

The former senator then asked the Comelec to instruct its law department to warn and notify violators of their "potential liability" for an election offense.

She said that if the candidates do to continue advertising, they should do so in the form of advertising that includes the entire Senate ticket of the party.

She also asked the Comelec to instruct all candidates and media outlets to emphasize their qualifications and stand on issues instead of just dancing and singing in their advertisements.

Erap sex life down to 'zero'

By Armand N. Nocum

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada, an admitted womanizer, describes his sex life in the cramped, hot, low-ceilinged room of his military camp jail as "zero."

"The place is not conducive [to sex]. The room must smell nice, cold and rainy. It must have a bathtub," Estrada said, describing the kind of living arrangements that would perk up his sex life.

Estrada used to boast that the toilets in his many residences were much better than his "single bedroom" at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. He said that he was used to having a huge bathroom.

Asked whether his 15-hectare vacation estate would serve the purpose, Estrada replied: "It will do."

And then, blowing smoke from his cigarette, Estrada joked in Filipino: "I'm envious of GMA [President Macapagal], she is getting plenty."

The President, asked at a press conference last year about the state of her sex life, said that in spite of her hectic work schedule, she managed to get "plenty" of it.

Estrada made these statements as he took Sandiganbayan reporters on a tour of his private resort which is located across the road from the military camp.

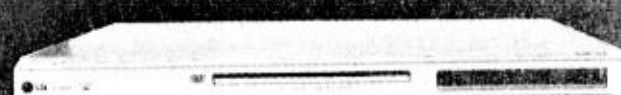
Reporters were allowed to accompany justices of the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court who made an ocular inspection of the estate. Estrada has petitioned the court for a "modified custodial arrangement" that would allow him to live in his country estate while being tried on plunder and graft charges.

Estrada only showed the justices and reporters the 14-room hotel-dormitory of the JEE Youth Camp and its 4 ft-deep swimming pool. *With a report from AFP*

LG

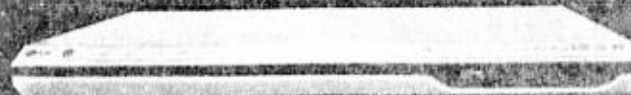
AT THE CITY

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Lacson calls in sick

By Norman Bordadora

GENERAL SANTOS City—Taking a break from his tough campaign schedule, presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson secluded himself at home on his doctor's advice yesterday, missing a rally scheduled by his supporters here.

Lacson told reporters who called him at his Parañaque City house that he had persistent coughing and head colds had bothered him in the last few days, but it was "nothing serious."

"I'm not about to leave for the US," he added, in reference to Alyansa ng Pag-asa standard-bearer Raul Roco who had to seek treatment abroad after he had complained of lower back pains.

"If I had gone ahead, I would have missed four to five days of the campaign. I consulted my doctor and he told me to take the day off," he said, adding that he had already taken antibiotics and would soon be back on the campaign trail.

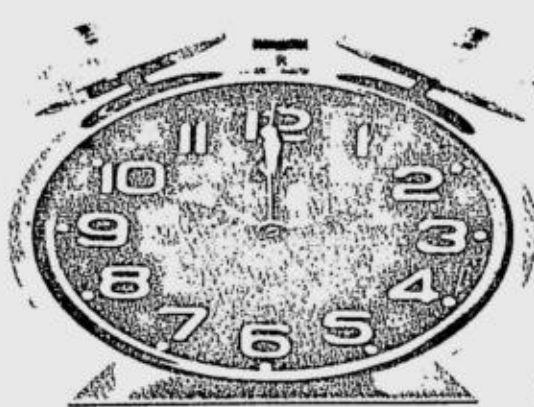
The General Santos City campaign schedule would push through on Sunday, Lacson said.

Lacson's failure to make the Mindanao trip yesterday gave rise to reports that he was about to meet with rival opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. in Metro Manila after their one-on-one on Monday was cancelled due to conflicting schedules.

"I already said that I would no longer cancel sorties to accommodate their (Poe's camp) requests to meet," Lacson said. "The people of General Santos City and I would meet on Sunday. We just changed the dates of our schedule. We didn't cancel; we just put it off for another day," he added.

Lacson is scheduled to go through towns and cities of central and southern Mindanao until the weekend. He is expected to be back in Metro Manila on Monday for another crack at unification talks with rival opposition presidential bet actor Fernando Poe Jr.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PCCI COMMITTEE ON POPULATION, CSR AND GOVERNANCE • APRIL 21, 2004

Viets ignore criticisms on Spratlys tours

HANOI—Vietnam brushed aside mounting criticism on its maiden tourist trip to the disputed Spratly islands from rival claimants, saying its citizens were engaged in a harmless activity on its own territory.

China, Taiwan and the Philippines have questioned Hanoi's decision to permit the eight-day tour, comprising nearly 100 people believed to be civilians on a navy ship that began on Monday.

"Vietnam has sovereignty on the Spratly and Paracel islands," Deputy Foreign Minister Le Van Bang told an American Chamber of Commerce lunch on Tuesday. "That is our position, this is our land."

The Spratlys—a cluster of islets, rocks and reefs in an area believed rich in oil and natural gas—are claimed in whole or in part by China, Taiwan and the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. The Chinese and Vietnamese navies clashed in the Spratlys in the late 1980s.

The 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) which includes Vietnam and the Philippines, had agreed with non-Asean member China in 2002 to consult over the Spratlys in a move to avoid upsetting the status quo.

Asked if Vietnam was acting in line with that declaration of conduct, Bang said: "We are acting in accordance with our law and this is a civilian activity, for tourists to come to visit our land."

China, which along with Vietnam claims all of the Spratlys, has registered the stiffest protest, summoning Vietnam's envoy in Beijing to express its concerns.

Taiwan too added its voice, reiterating its claim over the atolls and islets late on Monday. It clashed with Vietnam last month over a bird-watching stand it had erected on a reef.

Bang took a jab at actions by other claimants, noting others have tried to build structures, ban fishing and military exercises on or near the islands. "That is more dangerous than the visit of some civilians," he said.

Reuters



NO MORE CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOOS

By Maricela Jara-Puyol, LRT 2 Public Relations Chief

For the fourth time, The Chattanooga Choo Choo has resurfaced in Metro Manila with a very different look and technology.

Niftier than the trains of the MetroStar Express on Edsa and their predecessors of the Light Rail Transit Authority, 18 South Korean-cum-Japanese medium rails of the most modern train system in Asia start zipping today through the east-to-west corridor of the metropolis.

This, as the Arroyo administration, via the LRTA in Santolan, Pasig City, inaugurates the second phase of its Purple Line from Cubao, Quezon City to Legarda in Manila.

Phase 1 from Santolan, Pasig City to Cubao has been operational a year ago, today.

Costing P31 billion from soft loans and grants

from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and with corresponding funds from the Philippine government, the project is a combination of state-of-the-art machinery and expertise from seven other countries: Singapore (communications), France (automatic fare collection system), the ticket vending machines, and ticket analyzer/dispenser), Spain (computerized train signaling system), Belgium (train wash system and tracks turn out), (MoreAustria (train pantograph and the overhead catenary contact system), Australia (pandrol clip on the tracks), Germany (multi-purpose vehicles and train lifting machines), and the Philippines (infrastructures and human resources).

On the go via computers at the Operations Control Center, each of the South Korean Rotem-manufactured trains that accommodates a total of 1,600 passengers and

enough room for wheelchair-bound persons, measures 92.6 meters long and 3.2 meters wide.

Roomy for all, another unique characteristic of the Purple Line trains is their cool interiors. The more passengers there are, the cooler the interiors become. Thanks to the airconditioning system courtesy of another South Korean company, Carrier.

On the other hand, Japanese firms Toshiba and Nabco were responsible for the propulsion equipment or motors and the brakes, respectively.

It is expected that commuters from the concrete jungle will be relieved of their agony in traffic and long journey with the opening of the six other Purple Line stations, starting today.

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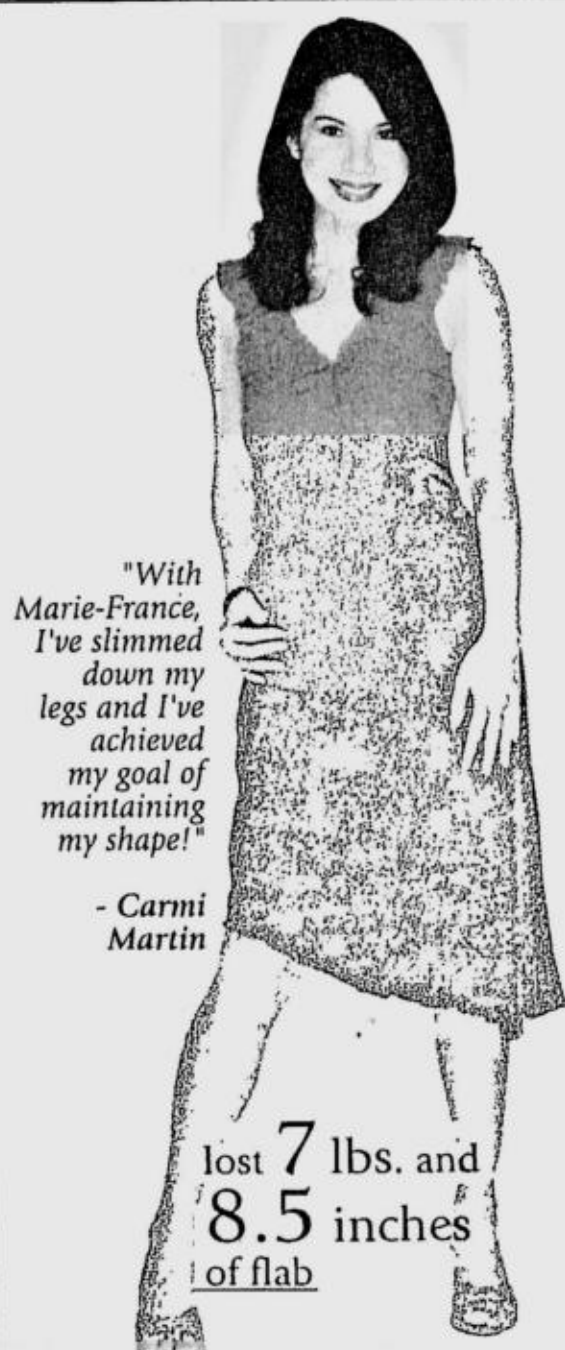
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2 killed in election violence in Albay

From page A1

to a politician he did not name), why not directly kill me and why involve innocent civilians?" Gonzalez said.

The deaths of Quililan and his driver have brought to 63 the number of people killed since the start of the election period on Dec. 15, police statistics showed. The campaign for local candidates began on March 25 while that for candidates for national office on Feb. 10.

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, said a total of 127 were injured in 64 election-related violence.

11 politicians killed

The number of casualties has exceeded the number of fatalities in the 2001 elections. The previous national elections registered 82 cases of political violence that left 56 people killed and 94 others injured. Twenty politicians were killed while nine were injured.

This year's deaths include 11 politicians like Oriental Mindoro mayoral candidate Juvy Magsino. She was assassinated with her aide Leima Fortu allegedly by the military on Feb. 13. At least six politicians were among the wounded, including Maguindanao town Mayor Vivencio Bataga, who survived a bomb blast that killed at least 15 people and injured more than 80.

Also killed during the period were 26 soldiers, 18 policemen, and 15 militiamen. They died in encounters with mostly New People's Army rebels.

With 204 incidents involving the communist guerrillas, Goltiao said the NPA remained the "most active threat to the holding of peaceful elections."

Hot spots

The escalating violence has prompted the PNP to recommend the inclusion of six more cities in the list of election "hot spots." They are San Carlos City in Pangasinan, Ramon and Santiago in Isabela, Mataas ng Kahoy in Batangas, Castilla in Masbate, and Paglas in Maguindanao.

There are 19 "election areas of immediate concern" or election hot spots on the PNP list, Goltiao said.

Bicol has the most number of poll-related violence with 10 followed by Western Mindanao with seven, and Eastern Visayas with

six, Goltiao said.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, home to at least 81 known private armies, has had only three incidents so far.

Asked if the death of his campaign leader will affect his candidacy, Gonzalez said, "Never!"

He said he would even work harder in order to win. Gonzalez said that he was leading in different towns and cities.

Broadcaster

Gonzalez claimed that the assassin of his campaign leader was paid by a politician. He theorized that the hit man who killed Quililan was also the one responsible for the death of the late broadcaster Rowell Endrinal on Feb. 11.

Endrinal was a staunch critic of Governor Bichara, who is finishing his third term. Bichara has denied involvement in the Endrinal case.

Citing the killing of his leader, Gonzalez appealed to the police and the Commission on Elections to conduct dialogues among local candidates to prevent further election-related violence.

Based on cases culled by the INQUIRER from police and military reports, some 35 insurgency and politically related incidents occurred in the Bicol region since January.

Most of these cases happened in Masbate and Albay provinces. These included harassment of politicians, encounters that resulted in deaths of government troops and NPA rebels, and shooting incidents involving supporters and critics of politicians and a military supporter.

Despite the increasing violence, Goltiao downplayed the possibility of bloody elections.

"I don't think violence would further escalate," he told reporters, citing several security measures the PNP has been implementing since December.

Private armed groups

They include the campaign against loose firearms and private armed groups that set up checkpoints nationwide.

Goltiao said an average of 30 people were arrested daily for violating the election gun ban. At least 1,276 guns had been seized as of yesterday.

As of April 15, there were still 119 private armed groups, down by only six from the number of groups identified by the PNP last month.

With a report from Christian V. Esguerra

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COMMUNITY Innovations, Inc., developer of The Columns, Ayala Avenue and Verdana Homes in Bacoor, will take their vision of fully-realized habitations to the gateway to the new south, with Verdana Homes Mamlasan.

Mamlasan, a former agricultural park in Biñan, Laguna, presents an ideal situation for the creation of a resort community unique in its combination of quality, location, and affordability. Located on its own exit off of the Southern Luzon Expressway, between the Carmona and Sta. Rosa exits, and accessed via the upcoming Greenfield Loop, Mamlasan is an opportunity in embryo waiting to emerge.

In its location, Mamlasan serves as the frontier for the rapidly-emerging Ayala South community and only 12 kilometers from the upscale villages of Alabang. The Mamlasan exit is located in the vicinity of rising business areas and technoparks, such as the 32-hectare Laguna International Industrial park, the Unilab Pharma Campus, and retail and commercial establishments including Printown and Pavilion Mall.

This side of Laguna has always been renowned as the educational nucleus, boasting some of the most prestigious prep schools, colleges, and universities in the country, notably including Brent School; Don Bosco; St. Scholastica's College; De La Salle University Canlubang, and the Ateneo Graduate School.

At the same time, Mamlasan offers a spaciousness and openness in a sharp contrast with the immediate environs of Metro Manila. Situated upon the green lands between Laguna de Bay and the hills around Lake Taal, Mamlasan acts as a home base for recreational excursions to Tagaytay, sea-side communities, and the beach resorts of Batangas and Cavite. Mamlasan itself is blessed with a fresh, cool breeze that literally gives it an air of tranquility.

Verdana Homes Mamlasan will take advantage of all these elements to create a community of outstanding design. Elements which made Verdana Homes Bacoor a success, such as master-planning, extensive and well-designed amenities, a commitment to encouraging neighborliness and community, will be taken to a new level at Mamlasan.

Verdana Homes Mamlasan will take into account the natural beauty and refreshing tranquility of the South to create a community where residents can live in harmony not only with one another, but with nature itself. At the focal point of the development is a 2-hectare central park with a clean, flowing stream at its heart. The lushly landscaped park will house a whole multitude of activities and facilities that will be available only to Verdana homeowners. A grand clubhouse presides over discrete zones for children, sports activities, picnicking, and community events. Sports features include not only a basketball court, but also a grass field for baseball, soccer, or lacrosse, and covered badminton courts.

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For any young family Verdana Homes Mamlasan is an ideal residence. Its amenities are designed to encourage its residents, especially its children, to thrive, in an environment expressly planned to stimulate their well-being. The gifts of the Mamlasan location—the numerous schools, the proximity to the

parents' workplaces, the clean air and lush green countryside, the lure of Tagaytay and tourists spots in Cavite and Batangas—make for an ideal suburban lifestyle. Safe, secure, people-friendly, the Verdana Homes concept is meant for young families seeking a better way to live, at a price-point they can afford.

Community Innovations, Inc. is dedicated to the creation of living, breathing communities that understand the human needs of its residents. Verdana Homes Mamlasan will continue that commitment in a serene new community at the gateway to the South.

For more information, call hotline numbers 750-0484, 750-0471, 849-0551 or visit its website at www.communityinnovations.com.ph or e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. You can also view our scale models at the Alabang Town Center.



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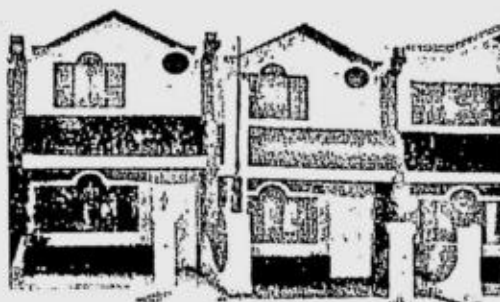
A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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FPJ vows 'lasting peace' with Reds

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By Carlito Pablo

IN AN apparent bid to win the backing of the mainstream Left, actor Fernando Poe Jr. vowed to strike "lasting peace" with communist rebels under his presidency.

"Ang tinutugunan natin d'yan ay mahabang kapayapaan hindi lang pansamantala (The response we need here is peace in the long term, not just temporary)," Poe said of Asia's longest-running insurgency being waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed wing New People's Army, and allied organizations under its political arm, the National Democratic Front.

Poe said he intends to communicate this to Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal,

magkakaroon ng kapayapaan (We will resolve all the problems and there will be genuine peace)," Poe said.

"Talagang may pag-uumpisahan (We will find a take-off point for sure)," Poe said when asked how he and Rosal would start discussions about ending the rebellion.

It may be recalled that the actor played the role of a communist rebel in the 1971 movie "Asedillo," in which he delivered revolutionary lines, among the biggest audience favorites in his cinematic career. One referred to the masses as "the water that rebels need to swim in to survive and succeed."

Poe and Rosal were supposed to have a mobile phone conversation last Sunday while the actor was campaigning in Laguna. The chat would have been the highlight of a press conference in Pagsanjan town, which was aborted at the last minute.

Rosal later told reporters covering the campaign of Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino that the party's program of government contained two provisions that the Left found acceptable. These are Poe's

program for restructuring the country's debts, and the adoption of an independent foreign policy.

Running neck and neck with President Macapagal-Arroyo in the latest surveys, Poe will need all the backing he can get.

Last year, Rep. Satur Ocampo, president of the Left-leaning Bayan Muna party-list group, suggested that there could be a communist vote. In the 2001 elections, Bayan Muna garnered an unprecedented 1.7 million votes, enabling it to nominate three representatives in Congress.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzalez recently tagged Bayan Muna and five other allied party-list organizations as legal fronts for the CPP-NPA-NDF.

In his briefing paper submitted to the National Security Council during a meeting in Malacañang early this month, Gonzalez accused the Bayan Muna representatives in Congress of having channeled their pork barrel funds to the armed rebellion. The party-list group sued him for libel.

Exiled CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison has announced that the Left is supporting Poe's running mate, Sen. Loren Legarda.

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SC asked to stop Eddie Gil's 'psychedelic dream'

From page A1

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to trifle with the Supreme Court, the Comelec said.

In a 23-page comment coursed through the Office of the Solicitor-General, the poll body said all that Gil had going for him was "entertainment value that is wearing thin." At best, the comment pointed out, Gil was a "comic relief" in a "maddening crowd of political and campaign speeches."

Though these qualities were not criminal per se, the Comelec pointed out that they made Gil "a clear and present obstacle to the determination of the true will of the people."

A nuisance, period

In short, he is a nuisance candidate, period. The Comelec ruling unequivocally declaring him thus, issued on April Fools Day, became final and executory five days after Gil received a copy, the comment said.

It stressed further: the status quo prior to April 13, when the high court order was released, was that Gil was no longer a contender in the May 10 presidential election since his name had been stricken off the Certified List of

Presidential Candidates.

Best of all, the Comelec said the ING bank certificate that Gil presented to the high tribunal to prove he had \$10 billion did not make him fit to run for the highest position in the land. "The issue is not the purported wealth [but the fact that] he has not proven bona fide intention. His antics [have] put the election process in mockery or disrepute."

Gil included in his petition to the tribunal an alleged bank guarantee dated Feb. 26, 2004 from the ING Bank confirming that he and an associate, Elizabeth Samson have US \$10 billion in an account under the name Treasureland Ltd. The guarantee was signed by a certain E. Dralans, a bank officer.

The guarantee said "the subject funds are good, clean, clear funds of non-criminal origin and have no involvement to terrorist activities."

Gil insisted that the guarantee merely confirmed his early claim that he had enough money to pay the country's debts—and it didn't even cover funds stashed away in ABN-Amro and 25 other top banks "around the world," he said.

Bro. Eddie No. 1 ...

From page A1

Raul Roco of the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was described as the "most candid" of the interviewees, were both found to be mobilizers and guardians, Grace Abella-Zata, head of the PMAP's presidential profiling committee and one of the interviewers, said yesterday at a press briefing in Quezon City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and actor Fernando Poe Jr.—the two top raters in the surveys—refused to be interviewed by the PMAP.

Eddie Gil, whom the Commission on Elections has disqualified from running, "did not provide any substantial information" to be evaluated.

But Oscar Contreras stressed that the job interview was not a scheme for endorsing anyone or prescribing an ideal president. He said it was merely an instrument to help voters measure a candidate's fitness for the

presidency.

Contreras said that with the huge number of voters still undecided on their choice of a president, the profiles and score cards would be "very useful."

"Three have shown competencies in certain areas, and the voting public should consider them among their possible choices for president," Contreras said.

5 competencies

The PMAP listed five competencies that a candidate should have to boost his/her chances of being a successful president. These are:

- Mobilizer, or one who leads the executive department and proactively builds alliances with concerned sectors to achieve objectives.

- Guardian, or one who ensures the long-term health, security and prosperity of the nation through principled action and the rule of law.

- Captivator, or one who inspires unity, trust and optimism among the people and moves them away from cynicism, and who builds trust in the presidency and the government.

- Servant leader, or one who serves the people with a genuinely caring heart and works hard and well to achieve the goals of the government.

- Navigator, or one who steers the ship of state to arrive at the destination of a just and humane society.

"There is no weight in the competencies," Zata said. "All are equally necessary and important to be a successful president... [But] there is a need to inspire people because the problem now is lack of hope and desperation."

She said the former chief of the Philippine National Police cited his program to trim the waistline of police officers and get rid of *kotang* (corrupt) cops as evidence of his ability to institute reforms as mobilizer.

The rise of the PNP's trust rating from 13 to 58 percent during his stint as PNP chief also proved his competency as guardian of the institution, the PMAP said.

Lacson, for his part, showed that his administration would be a tough one that pursues what it believes is right despite criticisms, Zata said.

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Australia launches \$2.7-M security package for RP

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY that habitually issued travel advisories against the Philippines now wants to help local authorities in the fight against terrorism.

Australia yesterday launched a \$2.7-million security package to further boost the country's operations against terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Osama bin Laden's regional affiliate Jemaah Islamiya.

The program is part of the three-year, \$3.7-million package Australian Prime Minister John Howard granted to the Macapagal administration during his visit here last year on July 14, the day JI terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu detainees bolted Camp Crame.

The grant came amid the barrage of travel advisories Australia has been issuing against the Philippines largely because of the threat of terrorism.

Six travel warnings had been issued beginning 2002. The latest came in late February after an Abu Sayyaf man allegedly triggered the explosion in SuperFerry 14, that left 111 passengers missing.

Now Australia wants to help the Philippines "build its counterterrorism capacity ... to combat terrorism both nationally and within the Asia-Pacific region," according to Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce.

Intel sharing

Funded by Australian Federal Police and the Australian Agency for International Development, the security package is designed to build the capacity of Philippines law enforcement agencies in "intelligence sharing, bomb investigation techniques, forensic capacity and other counterterrorism areas at both strategic and operational levels," said AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty in a statement.

The project was signed by Frank Prendergast of the Australian police and Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, executive director of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime.

Velasco said the database will be made

available to other foreign law enforcement agencies, including the US and British police.

It will enable Philippine police to collect and analyze intelligence "in real time" and share it among domestic and regional security agencies, said Prendergast.

Australia is also implementing a similar security program for Indonesia, the country

hardest hit by terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The attack on the Bali island resort killed 202 people, 81 of them Australians.

Australia was assisting Southeast Asia, Jemaah Islamiya main area of operation, ostensibly to avoid a repeat of the Bali attacks. With Jobert Navallo (trainee), AP, AFP and Reuters

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Bayan Muna endorses 9 Senate bets

By Volt Contreras

THE LEFT-LEANING Bayan Muna party list yesterday endorsed nine senatorial candidates who had pledged it would "actively defend" the group from harassment from ultra-rightists once elected.

The list includes the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino's Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Rep. Carlos Padilla of the Laban Demokratikong Pilipino-Lacson wing, and lawyers Frank Chavez and Perfecto Yasay Jr. from the Alyansa ng Pag-Asa.

Bayan Muna picked four bets from President Macapagal-Arroyo's K4 lineup: former Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, actors-turned-politicians Lito Lapid and Ramon Revilla Jr., and lawyer Pia Cayetano, daughter of the late Sen. Rene Cayetano.

Independent candidate Heherson Alvarez also made it to the group's selection.

"We thank them for vowing to actively defend Bayan Muna's mandate to serve the people against the harassment of ultra-rightist groups," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales had tagged Bayan Muna as a front and financier of the communist New People's Army, and had called for its disqualification from the party-list race together with five other allied organizations. Bayan Muna, in turn, had accused the military and police of being behind the murders or abductions of its leaders, especially those in the provinces.

Ocampo explained the nine were chosen for their "individual" credentials and track

records rather than for their respective parties that had "no clear platforms." The endorsement was also in recognition of the key roles some of them played in the two Edsa revolutions, and for their "openness" to the reforms being pushed by Bayan Muna, he added.

For example, he said, Pimentel was chosen "for joining us in raising issues against the Macapagal administration," despite his affiliation with the camp of presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., a close friend of deposed President Estrada. Chavez made the list for his pursuit of the celebrated coco levy case against the Marcos regime, and Yasay and Alvarez for their roles in Edsa 11.

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Friday, April 23, 2004

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS IN MATH & ENGLISH

Saturday, April 24, 2004

TIME OF EXAMINATIONS

9:00 - 11:00 AM

PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS

TIP Manila and TIP Quezon City

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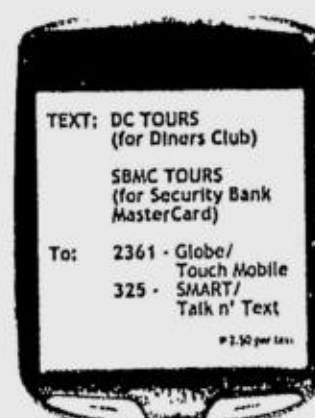
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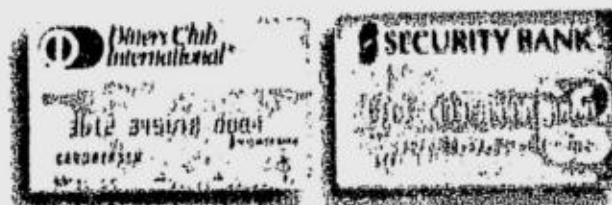
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US, Sunni rebels strike deal to end fighting

BAGHDAD—A fledgling deal was struck to end fighting in Iraq's Sunni guerrilla stronghold of Fallujah and US forces gave Iraqi mediators stronghold to resolve a standoff with a rebel Shiite cleric and his militia.

US military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said the 24 hours to Monday evening had been "remarkably" quiet in Iraq, with no troops killed and attacks well below the average of some 50 over the last two weeks.

US-funded Iraqiya Television said two of its staff were killed by US forces while working in Samarra, north of Baghdad. The US military had no immediate information.

In blows for US-led forces in Iraq, Spain began withdrawing its 1,400 troops on Monday, and Honduras said it would follow

suit, pulling out its 370 troops "in the shortest possible time."

US President George W. Bush said in phone talks with new Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero he regretted Spain's decision and warned Madrid against giving "false comfort to terrorists." White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

Bush, campaigning for reelection in November, signaled the importance he attaches to Iraq by appointing the top US diplomat at the United Nations, John Negroponte, to be his ambassador to Baghdad

when US administrator Paul Bremer stands down on June 30.

The US-led administration in Iraq said US-led forces would not resume an offensive against the Sunni guerrillas holed up in the bloody city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, if they turned in their heavy weapons.

Negotiators had agreed after three days of talks to work toward a real and lasting ceasefire in Fallujah, said Dan Senor, the administration's chief spokesperson.

It was unclear how much influence Fallujah officials have on the estimated 1,000-2,000 guerrillas as flare-ups of fighting have occurred during a shaky truce over the past 10 days.

"The parties agreed that (US-led) coalition forces do not intend

to resume offensive operations if the persons in the city turn in their heavy weapons," Senor said.

Iraqi police and US troops would start joint patrols in Fallujah to try and restore order, he said.

US forces launched a crackdown in Fallujah after a spate of violence, including the killing and mutilation of four US contractors in the town on March 31. They encircled it and vowed to capture those responsible for the killings.

Senor said a present curfew would start two hours later at 9 p.m. and there would be unfettered access to Fallujah hospital, food and medicine would be provided to isolated areas and ambulances would be allowed to move freely.

On top of a months old battle

against Sunni guerrillas, US-led forces have faced a new front this month against Shiite fighters led by rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

New Pentagon figures showed 110 US soldiers had been killed in action since March 31 when US troops launched a major crackdown against guerrillas—more than in the three-week war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Since US-led forces invaded Iraq in March last year, 509 US soldiers have been killed in action.

Hundreds of Iraqis, many civilians, were killed in an upsurge of violence in the country that began on March 31.

The commander of 2,500 US troops outside Najaf, a holy city to Iraq's Shiite majority, said he

would allow time for talks before any attempt to enter the city to seize Sadr—which could spark a wider and bloodier uprising.

"Because of where negotiations are right now, we can wait," Col. Dana Pittard said. "We still want Iraqis to solve the problem." The US military has said it wants to kill or capture Sadr, who is holed up in Najaf, and destroy his Mehdi Army militia. It says Sadr is wanted by an Iraqi judge in connection with the murder of another cleric.

Spain's new Socialist government said the process of withdrawing the 1,400 Spanish troops in Iraq—the sixth largest contingent in US-led forces—had begun and would be completed in less than six weeks. **Reuters**

AFTER SPAIN US fears more troop pullouts

WARSAW—Iraq's multinational peacekeeping force scrambled to regroup Monday after Spain's announcement that it would pull out its 1,300 troops, with Albania pledging more soldiers but US officials bracing for further withdrawals.

Honduras followed suit late Monday night with President Ricardo Maduro announcing the pullout of his troops "in the shortest time possible," confirming US fears.

Spanish troops will leave Iraq in less than six weeks, Defense Minister Jose Bono said Monday in Madrid, but it remains unclear who will take their place. The 9,500 peacekeepers under Polish command are charged with the southern central sector, where followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr are waging a bloody rebellion.

Polish officials said they thought greater United Nations involvement might help wavering countries make new troop commitments or at least follow through with what they have already promised.

"A UN resolution would be a great help," Polish Defense Minister Jerzy Szemajdzinski told Poland's TVN24.

Szmajdzinski said Spain's decision caught him by surprise. "We are all working intensively on several variants on how to make up for the leaving troops," he told the Rzeczpospolita daily. "Perhaps we will have to reorganize the division."

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the top US military spokesperson in Iraq, sought to allay fears about the implications of the Spanish pullout, saying there would be no "security vacuum in that area at any time." **AP**

Book details how US diverted antiterror funds

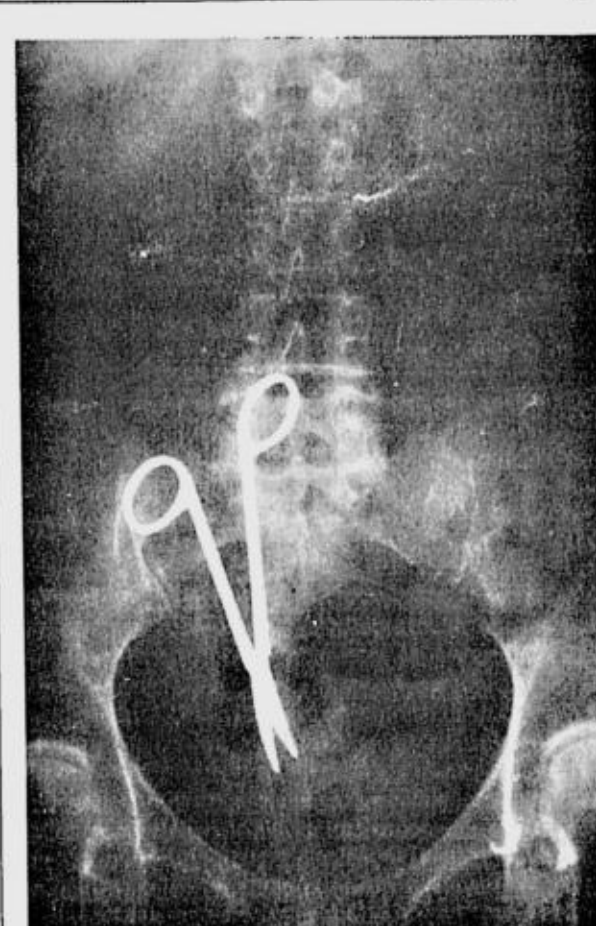
WASHINGTON—The Bush administration on Monday denied a report in a new book that it secretly diverted money intended for the effort to prevent terrorism in 2002 to prepare for an invasion of Iraq.

The book, "Plan of Attack," by Bob Woodward, asserted that President Bush left Congress largely in the dark in July 2002 when he approved \$700 million in projects to prepare military action against Iraq.

Democrats, in response to the assertions, questioned whether the administration had violated, at a minimum, the spirit of the laws providing money for battling terrorists after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

But the White House and the Pentagon said they had kept Congress informed of how they were allocating the money when they were required to, and had held off approving most spending intended to prepare for an invasion of Iraq until after Congress had adopted a resolution, on Oct. 11, 2002, authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

The book had the administration on the defensive on a number of fronts on Monday. **NYT**



EMBEDDED SCISSORS

An X-ray shows a 6.7-inch pair of surgical scissors in the abdomen of 69-year-old Pat Skinner in Sydney, Australia. Mrs Skinner had an operation at St. George hospital in Sydney's south in May 2001, but continued to suffer intense pain and it was only when she insisted on an X-ray 18 months later that she discovered the scissors inside. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS

Britain nabs terror suspects

LONDON—Police in Britain pursued their crackdown on terrorist suspects Monday, arresting 10 people in a series of raids in northern and central England. Seven people, including a woman, were arrested in the Manchester area, while the others were detained in Staffordshire, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands, Greater Manchester Police said. Those held were described as being North African and Iraqi Kurdish in origin, and were detained under the Terrorism Act 2000 on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Dave Whetton, assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, said the coordinated raids—involving more than 400 officers—were part of an "on-going operation related to the threat of terrorism." **AFP**

Negroponte to Iraq as ambassador

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush announced Monday that he had picked John Negroponte, his envoy to the United Nations, as the first US ambassador to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War. "John Negroponte is a man of enormous experience and skill. That's why I'm comfortable in asking him to serve in this very difficult assignment. There's no doubt in my mind he can handle it," Bush said in the Oval Office. If confirmed by the US Senate, Negroponte would move from New York to Baghdad to head up what will eventually be the largest US Embassy in the world with some 3,000 employees, including 700 to 1,000 Americans. He would take over from the US civilian overseer in Iraq, Paul Bremer, who is set to step down if the United States successfully follows through on its plan to return Iraq to self-rule by July 1. **AFP**

Kim seeks closer ties with China

BEIJING—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il held a second day of talks with Chinese leaders Tuesday, seeking economic aid and stronger military ties as tensions with the United States show fewer signs of easing. While Kim's movements are shrouded in secrecy, diplomats cited by South Korea's Yonhap news agency said he was meeting with military chief Jiang Zemin and Premier Wen Jiabao. The reclusive leader arrived by train in Beijing Monday on an unannounced visit accompanied by a 30- to 40-strong entourage, and headed straight into talks with President Hu Jintao. South Korean newspapers said Kim told Hu he was ready to give up Pyongyang's nuclear programs if the United States changed its "hostile attitude." **AFP**

Highway in Singapore collapses

SINGAPORE—A highway in downtown Singapore collapsed on Tuesday after an explosion at a construction site nearby where an underground railway line is being built, a police spokesperson said. One person was injured and four others were missing. "Rescue operations are currently going on. So far one person has been rescued from the site and he has been sent to the hospital," police spokesperson Tan Puay Kern said. He said four construction workers were missing and a search was under way. A statement from Singapore's Land Transport Authority said the incident took place at about 3.30 p.m. A witness said she had heard an explosion and saw fire emerging from the construction site near the highway. **Reuters**

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of MARCH 23, 2004

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	₱ 1,433,684,796
Due from Bangko Sentral	1,807,226,849
Due from Other Banks	1,237,605,599
Interbank Loans Receivable	7,869,550,459
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)	13,728,630,880
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	28,602,523,346
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	39,363,438,827
Equity Investments (Net)	193,899,088
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	3,060,634,200
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	4,701,890,937
Others	4,585,943,381
TOTAL ASSETS	₱ 106,585,025,162

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	₱ 11,276,533,023
Savings Deposits	15,322,452,781
Time Deposits	46,042,225,278
Special/Other Deposits	62,374,862
Due to Bangko Sentral	17,435,519
Due to Banks	3,197,715
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	307,260,509
Bills Payable	10,575,499,868
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	963,167,673
Other Liabilities	3,620,315,911
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱ 88,190,483,139

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	₱ 3,716,772,326
Surplus	12,447,662,756
Surplus Reserves	327,886,437
Other Capital Accounts	1,902,220,504
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 18,394,542,023

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS ₱ 106,585,025,162

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	₱ 2,413,232,112
Bills for Collection	297,823,906
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	10,938,876,000
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	25,355,946
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	34,252,729,831
Invested in:	
Government Securities	₱23,740,597,973
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	1,100,730,211
Loans and Discounts	2,277,849,907
Other Assets	7,133,551,740
Accountabilities:	
Trust and Other Fiduciary	25,939,643,404
Common Trust Funds	4,765,604,836
Investment/Fund Management	3,547,481,591
Other contingent accounts	2,272,929,141
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	₱ 50,200,948,936

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
A) Government	₱ 28,820,005
B) Banks	266,096,960
C) Trust Department	42,274,196
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% For Small Ent. 2% For Medium Ent.
Actual Compliance	13.13%
3. Amount of non-performing loans	171,762,802
4. Amount of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio	0.43%
5. Ratio of classified loans and other risk assets	12,788,944,217
6. General provision for loan losses	2,387,891,074
7. Specific provision for loan losses	4,289,420,533
8. Return on Equity	3,384,107,299
9. DOSRI loans/advances	5.98%
10. Ratio to total loan portfolio	0.12%
11. Past due DOSRI loans/advances	66,909,856
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio	0.17%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } s.s.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, PETER S. DEE and RICARDO R. CHUA, of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this April 15, 2004, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12383128 issued at Makati on January 30, 2004 and Residence Certificate No. 15282828 issued at Makati on April 01, 2004, respectively.

(Sgd.) ORDON P. MANINGDING
Notary Public

Doc No 109
Page No 23
Book No 24
Series of 2004

Notary Public
Until December 31, 2004
PTR No 7014043 Makati 1-6-04
TIN 121-794-040

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Bank and Financial Subsidiaries & Affiliates) As of MARCH 23, 2004

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	₱ 1,431,161,136
Due from Bangko Sentral	1,807,226,849
Due from Other Banks	1,237,605,599
Interbank Loans Receivable	7,869,550,459
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)	13,728,630,880
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	28,707,228,662
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	39,363,438,829
Equity Investments (Net)	142,939,317
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	3,062,034,292
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	4,701,890,937
Others	4,616,236,631
TOTAL ASSETS	₱ 106,667,943,391

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	₱ 11,276,533,023
Savings Deposits	15,322,452,781
Time Deposits	46,042,225,278
Special/Other Deposits	62,374,862
Due to Bangko Sentral	17,435,519
Due to Banks	3,197,715
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	307,260,509
Bills Payable	10,575,499,868
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	1,013,387,937
Other Liabilities	3,652,490,646
TOTAL LIABILITIES	₱ 88,272,858,138

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	₱ 3,716,772,326
Surplus	12,447,662,756
Surplus Reserves	327,886,437
Other Capital Accounts	1,902,220,504
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	₱ 18,395,085,253

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS ₱ 106,667,943,391

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

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OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
A) Government	₱ 28,820,005
B) Banks	266,096,960
C) Trust Department	42,274,196

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries & Affiliates
A) CBC FOREX CORPORATION
B) CBC INSURANCE BROKERS, INC.
C) CBC PROPERTIES AND COMPUTER, INC.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } s.s.
CITY OF MAKATI

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Arabs, Muslims urged to join forces vs US, Israel

DAMASCUS—Arabs and Muslims must join forces to defend themselves against the United States and Israel and support the Palestinians in their worsening conflict with the Jewish state, Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal said late Monday.

Mashaal, who is the political chief of the Palestinian militant organization, described America and Israel as "the leading dangers" confronting Arabs and Muslims around the world.

The Syrian-based Hamas leader made his comments to about 500 people at a rally after a condolence ceremony at the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk, outside Damascus, held for Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the Hamas leader in Gaza assassinated by Israel on Saturday.

"Arabs and Muslims have to join together in order to stand against the arrogance of the Zionists and the Americans," Mashaal said, adding that "Hamas will reply to the killing of Dr. Rantisi." He did not say how.

Mashaal's comments come amid Arab anger at Rantisi's

killing plus the Bush administration's endorsement last week of a proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the Palestinian West Bank in exchange for US concessions on keeping Israeli settlement on other Palestinian-claimed land.

US President George W. Bush also embraced Israeli rejection of any "right of return" for Palestinian refugees after a White House meeting with Sharon.

"The Arab governments have to stop the Zionist-American plan to control the Arab world," Mashaal said. "The Palestinians have done their duties and offered martyrs in Palestine and now the Arabs have to unite with the Palestinians."

In an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday, Mashaal blamed Washington for Rantisi's death, saying the Bush administration's endorsement of Israel's proposal to hold onto West Bank Jewish settlements encouraged Sharon to give the go-ahead for the Hamas leader's killing. AP

Srebrenica massacre was genocide, UN court rules

THE HAGUE—A UN court ruled Monday that a 1995 massacre in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica was genocide, in a historic decision that could determine the fate of defendants on trial including former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic.

But in a move that sparked outrage among relatives of the Srebrenica dead, the appeals chamber of the UN war crimes court in The Hague overturned the conviction of a Bosnian Serb general who led troops into Srebrenica, then a UN-protected enclave where more than 7,000 Muslim boys and men were killed.

Instead, Radislav Krstic, who in 2001 became the first man found guilty of genocide over the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II, saw his conviction reduced to a lesser charge of aiding and abetting genocide.

"The trial chamber ... sets aside Radislav

Krstic's conviction as a participant in a joint criminal enterprise to commit genocide and finds (him) guilty of aiding and abetting genocide," Meron said.

In its judgment the appeals chamber ruled for the first time that to prove that someone aided and abetted genocide it is not necessary to prove that he himself had had the intent to commit genocide

but only that he knew that the principal perpetrators were planning to do so.

"This verdict shows that the accused himself need not have that same (genocidal intent) but prosecutors can simply prove that an accused had knowledge of the intent of those directly involved in the crimes," Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch said. AFP

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Frustrating fraud

WHAT is the responsibility of a political leader when he suspects electoral fraud? This question is approaching critical importance as election day—and the turmoil that inevitably accompanies the counting to follow—approaches.

In asking this question, we must distinguish between what a political leader can, and should, ask, and what the citizenry demands. Political leaders,

EDITORIAL particularly those already holding a position, do not only have the responsibility to prevent fraud, but also have the added burden of asking questions responsibly. After all, the citizenry takes its cue from leaders; and leaders, in asking questions, can end up manipulating the quest for the truth by wrapping it up in lies or half truths. While we are used to politicians who use their prominence to play loose and fast with the truth, and who have no moral scruples against using rhetoric like a child playing with matches in a gasoline station, this doesn't make it right.

Take the case of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., whose knowledge of electoral fraud is painfully personal, but who has somewhat limited the believability of his outrage concerning future fraud by being in a political alliance that includes the man whom he had accused of cheating him out of a Senate seat some elections back. He has been going to town with vehement accusations of a grand conspiracy to defraud the opposition of votes. But on the crucial question of hard evidence, he has been far from forthcoming.

Should the good senator be making dire prognostications of fraud, without backing up his predictions with proof? On a simple, pragmatic level, it may not have occurred to him that he might end up being in the position of the little boy that cried wolf. There is such a thing as being so alarmist that no one, in the end, will seriously heed his calls when the proper time comes.

In Greek mythology, Cassandra was cursed by the gods with the gift of seeing the future, except that no one would ever believe her. Obviously, fraud in the coming election is to be expected. Except the opposition, humanly enough, does not admit the possibility that fraud may be attempted by members of its own ranks.

This means that Pimentel should take a cue from his having been cheated in the past, and realize that his concerns over fraud will only prosper if made a national, and not partisan, concern. Preventing fraud and punishing it are the nation's concern. Preventing the administration from cheating, only to allow the opposition to cheat, is only the concern of the political parties.

As Namfrel Jose Concepcion's concerns over the same time the Comelec is taking to order indelible ink indicates, the coming national elections are handicapped by one of the most disgracefully managed Comelecs of all time. There are serious concerns aplenty; workable, non-partisan solutions are all too few. This is a time when Pimentel, with his experience and, needless to say, his prestige, can prove himself a statesman rather than a frustrated partisan. He must begin by arming his questions with facts, not speculation.

This is also where the supporters of more reformist candidates can do the country a service that goes beyond the ambitions of their leaders. All fraud is wrong, all fraud must be prevented and its perpetrators punished. The duty of the citizenry goes beyond casting their ballots; it continues to the protection of the integrity of the counting process. Speed and accuracy, from the precinct up, are the enemies of fraud. If only more citizens would realize that, after casting their votes, they are no longer partisans, but are instead all bound together by the need to ensure a credible election. Then, and only then, would a clean vote have a fighting chance. Machinery and intimidation can only go so far, when faced with a vigilant body politic.

Security in the Olympics

THE OLYMPICS in Athens this summer were always going to be a difficult enterprise...As we report today, the worst-case scenario is very bad. Delays in construction threaten to compromise safety and security. Of the 39 major building projects, 15 have been completed, nine are running to time and 15 more are behind schedule. The biggest worry, nonetheless, is that the inevitable rush job will lead to corners being cut on security measures.

FOREIGN COMMENT The mere perception that security might be anything less than watertight could undermine the entire occasion. Some of the more exciting international superstars, apparently including Serena Williams, have suggested they may not travel to Greece if they do not feel completely assured by the arrangements. The games should and must go on. The authorities in Athens would be well advised, however, to look for more assistance from abroad to ensure that they meet the contemporary security challenges.

The Times (London)



Padded voters' lists for May elections

WHY is this guy crying like a baby, trying to get public sympathy, for being hit on the chest by actress Susan Rocas (already being touted as the next first lady)? Councilor Alan Celino, vice mayoral candidate of Roxas City, seems to be milking the incident of all the publicity he can get and project him to national prominence. How many chances can you get in a lifetime to be mentioned when people talk about Susan Rocas and Fernando Poe Jr.?

He has succeeded there and he is now known beyond the confines of his city, but the publicity he has been getting is negative: that of a cry baby, a DOM, and a "manunumbong, haba tumbong."

Celino's version of the incident is that Susan punched him on the chest while they were campaigning on a six-wheeler flatbed truck in Roxas City.

Susan's version is that it was because he was repeatedly touching her. In other words, "nang-cha-chancing siya."

Celino admitted "making kalabit," but only to call her attention to the people waving at her so she would wave back and shake hands with them.

Susan also claimed she did not hit him with her fist but with her arm, perhaps with her elbow, (her exact word was "tinabig," "el-bowed") because he had touched her several times. She said she had already warned him about it but that he continued to touch her.

"Ganun pala," said our maid, "buti nga sa kanya."

No woman likes to be touched, especially by a stranger in a strange place. Her reflex reaction is to elbow him away. Ordinarily, the man will apologize and move away. But Celino did not. Instead, he ran to media and cried: "Waaa! She punched me. She punched me. Waaa!"

It is unusual for a man to complain that a woman hit him for touching her, but Celino seems to be not the usual chivalrous man, said a number of blasé newshens I talked to.

The incident is, in the words of the Poe couple, "being blown out of proportion" for the publicity it can generate.

As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



All I want to say is that Celino is lucky it was Susan who hit him and not her husband. Otherwise, he would have been hit not only once but many times on the face, on the abdomen (with the appropriate sound effects: bog, bog, bog, bog!) and hit with the palms on both ears. Obviously, Celino has not seen enough FPJ movies to realize what he has been saved from.

Filipino custom and honor require that a husband defend the honor of his wife insulted by a stranger, and FPJ is as macho as a husband can be.

Celino should forget the whole thing. It's a small matter. He should look for another publicity gimmick.

There are growing indications that the May 10 elections may not be as clean and honest as we want them to be. Flying voters and padded voters' lists have already been discovered. The Commission on Elections has uncovered double registrants in many places. Namfrel has revealed that the computerized voters' lists in Metro Manila contained the names of many dead persons. And reelectionist Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has revealed in press forums that voters' lists in some areas have shown increases in the number of voters way out of proportion to the national average rate of population increase.

According to the Comelec-certified voters' lists, Pimentel said, voters in Davao del Norte increased by 27 percent; in Tagum City by 22 percent; in Panabo by 25 percent, and in Cebu, by a whopping 36 percent. The national average is only 2 percent, and that is still high. The suspicion is that voters' lists have been padded. In Naga, Lanao del Norte, 24,000 voters have been registered

although it has only 8,000 residents.

Padded voters' lists and ghosts and birds and bees voting in Philippine elections are nothing new. I am sure the major political parties and candidates have special operations for cheating and for defending themselves against cheating by their rivals. Comelec leniency and the ease with which squatters with no permanent addresses can register as voters can make flying voters decide who wins or loses in closely fought polls.

The danger of cheating in the coming elections has been exacerbated by the Comelec's incompetence, said Pimentel who has been a victim of "dagdag-bawas."

The Comelec has been remiss in its duty to furnish political parties with a certified voters' list (CVL), Pimentel said. It was supposed to have done that last February but failed to do so.

As a result of this, local opposition parties can no longer file inclusion or exclusion proceedings for voters who were either wrongfully included or excluded from the CVL. The Comelec had fixed the deadline for such proceedings last Jan. 20 and Jan. 31, respectively.

The Comelec cannot correct its failure by saying that the list is now posted on its website, Pimentel pointed out. Posting the CVL on its website is not the equivalent of certifying the voters' list and furnishing copies of the CVLs to political parties.

Pimentel said that in Iligan City, the Comelec registrar is still waiting for Comelec Manila's approval to release at this late date the CVL. She cannot decide whether or not to include 11,000 additional registrants that would bloat the list by 68 percent.

In Talisay City, he added, opposition lawyers charge that the Comelec file on the city voters was deleted after signs of tampering had been discovered.

"Unless the CVLs are officially issued by the Comelec," the opposition senator said, "the prospects are that there will be a repeat of the mismanaged 2001 elections where tens of thousands of voters were disfranchised."

Sacrifices

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file I was making. What I have never figured out is whether they thought I was a hero or a fool for choosing to make that 'sacrifice.'

"Personally, I do not think of myself as either. What is more, I do not even believe that I am making a sacrifice at all.

"By choosing to go home, what am I giving up, really? It is not as if by working in Manila I am choosing a life of starvation, deprivation, and abject poverty as compared to the life of wealth and comfort I will supposedly have working in the United States. Certainly on my modest salary from UP—where I work as a member of the junior faculty—I will never grow rich, and (thanks to John Osmeña), I will probably never be able to rise above the poverty line by any appreciable margin either. But, with a little extra effort, I will be able to maintain an acceptable level of dignity for myself and my family. Is giving up what amounts to a few extra perks then such a noteworthy sacrifice?

"Unlike so many of our OFWs who are forced to go overseas to work for a few years as manual laborers and domestic helpers, my situation, like the situation of so many other university-educated, middle-class Filipinos, does not involve a choice between starvation and survival. Rather, it involves the less spectacular and more prosaic choice of renting a two-bedroom apartment in Quezon City or owning a sprawling house in a New Jersey suburb; of commuting on a UP-Pantranco jeepney or driving the latest model SUV; of making do with a Third World salary or insisting on being paid in the Almighty Dollar.

"Neither do I believe that the United States is such a wonderful place to live and raise a family in. This is a country that spends billions

on law enforcement and "homeland security," but where almost no one feels safe in their own home. This is a nation with the best medical facilities in the world, but where without health insurance you cannot even get a splinter removed. This is the land of the free, at least until the government starts suspecting you are a terrorist.

"And among the Filipinos I have met in the United States, one thing has been nearly as consistent as the surprise that has met my intention to go home. That is if they could keep their higher salaries, if subways could be built in Manila, if the PNP could become less corrupt, if FPJ could be stopped from becoming president, then they would want to live in the Philippines.

"I am glad that I do not have to worry about having any of these conditions met. This May, no matter what happens, I will be flying home.

"And it will be the easiest 'sacrifice' I ever had to make."

It's a beautiful piece, and a particularly timely one. Norwithstanding the elections, pieces like this will always be timely anytime. But it is particularly welcome these days in the light of Elmer Jacinto almost becoming the rallying cry of the frustrated youth in this benighted country. Jacinto is the young man from Basilan (he's in his late 20s but anyone who is not 40 is young to me now) who topped the medical board exams but is going to work in New York as a caregiver. That too he says—like Gutierrez—without reluctance, without regret, and probably with much thankfulness, if not joy. I did say I did not blame Jacinto for choosing a life of exile abroad after the life of exile he's lived within in his own country, courtesy of presidents like GMA who have made Basilan synonymous with terrorism. But I did not say he is worth emulating.

As Gutierrez shows, there is another choice, one some others have taken. It requires neither heroism nor sacrifice, though it helps to have idealism and loftiness of mind. But for the most part, it requires only seeing the things that really matter in life. (To be concluded)

The importance of having a party machine

A DRIVE around Metro Manila and neighboring cities confirms the intensification of the election campaign on the local level, where the focus has shifted to local candidates from national candidates. The change of the focus underlines the critical importance of the party machine and shows where campaign funds are being spent. Most of the funds are going mainly into the production and distribution of campaign materials and bringing voters to the polling stations, rather than to vote-buying.

While metropolitan voters are being held in suspense, three weeks before the elections, over whether Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson will ever forge a united opposition, the administration Lakas-Christian-Muslim Democratic Party is coiling its tentacles and consolidating its coverage of electoral districts all over the country. In a tight election, where the polls show President Macapagal-Arroyo enjoying a slim edge over her closest rival, Poe, it would be suicidal to dismiss blithely the importance of a party infrastructure with national coverage.

A statistical summary of party coverage, based mainly on Commission on Elections and party records, draws a picture of the administration machine's (K-4) extensive infrastructure. For the 211 House seats being contested, K-4 has 214 candidates, or 101 percent. The opposition coalition, KNP, has fielded only 26 candidates, or a coverage of 12 percent. Aksyon Demokratiko has 19 candidates (9 percent), KBL, six (3 percent); LDR, 57 (27 percent); PDP-Laban, 11 (5 percent); PDSP, 11 (5 percent); PMR, 27 (13 percent); Promdi, 1; Reporma, 6; NPC, 87 (65 percent); Independent, 137 (65 percent); and others 65 (31 percent).

Running for provincial governor, with 79 seats at stake are 84 (81 percent) from K-4, while KNP has 8 (10 percent), Aksyon, 3; KBL, 6; LDR, 24 (30 percent); NPC, 33 (42 percent); and independent, 67 (85 percent). The others are insignificant in numbers. For city mayor (where 119 posts are at stake), K-4 has 125 (105 percent), KNP, 25

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



(21 percent); LDR, 30 (25 percent); PDP-Laban, 8 (7 percent); NPC, 25 (21 percent); PMR, 24 (20 percent); and independent, 88 (74 percent).

There are no reliable estimates on how many votes party machinery can deliver. In the 1998 elections, Speaker Jose de Venecia's machine, Lakas-NUCD, collapsed in the face of the juggernaut of Vice President Joseph Estrada. There were 11 presidential candidates then, but Estrada was backed by a coalition composed of his own Puwersa ng Masa, a miniscule party, and Sen. Edgardo Angara's LDR, which provided Estrada with a party machinery.

Angara ran as Estrada's vice-presidential candidate but his party infrastructure, which was quite significant at the time, failed to carry him to victory.

In this election, the contest has shrunk into a two-person contest, giving it a different environment than that of 1986. Estrada started with 28 percent in the surveys in January 1998, and ended up with 39 percent on election day. De Venecia started with 11 percent and ended with 16 percent. There was a wide gap between Estrada and De Venecia at the start: 17 percentage points.

In the latest Pulse Asia survey (taken in March-April), the President polled 34 percent and Poe 31 percent. At about the same time in 1998, Estrada was galloping toward the finish line, driven by a big surge of popularity. Nothing of that kind is driving Poe, whose popularity has been slipping since last November. He is now swimming against a strong current that carried

the President's recovery from last January.

The party situation favors the administration coalition more than the De Venecia machine in 1998. The K-4 machine is well-oiled and more tightly organized. It has an over-supply of candidates, indicating that morale is high. By contrast, not only is the KNP severely under-represented in local contests, but at this stage of the campaign, it is plagued by squabbles and torn by disunity. To illustrate, Poe and Lacson cannot even make up their minds whether they want to meet at all and when they will meet.

In a close contest, where Poe has not sustained his early popularity, and instead has hit the peak in January, a machine with extensive coverage is critical and can make a big difference.

In a close contest, it is like shutting one's eyes to reality to presume that popularity alone can clinch the election. It is the machine and its local apparatus that bring voters to listen to last-minute rallies and to the polling stations. People need transport.

Poe's handlers and promoters have made the mistaken assumption that he could win the election single-handedly through popularity derived from his movie roles. Poe seems to have believed that he could win without a party machine. When he launched his bid for the presidency early this year, Poe did not count on a party organization, saying his party "is the people."

At this stage, when the campaign is focused on the local level, the *miting de avance* in the national capital is no longer as important as it was in past elections. In those times, people packed the rallies to hear the final debate. But Poe disdains debate, since he can only mumble incoherent words. There's no longer pleasure or education to be derived from a campaign that shuns words and ideas. The Poe campaign has struck a fatal blow to the political campaign as a forum for information and excitement. With the vacuum at the top, the party machine has taken over as the critical medium for political mobilization.

'None of the above'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



the Martels because the shooting was a "private family matter" that was of no concern to the general public.

I'm no lawyer but I do know that parricide—taking the life of one's spouse—is a public crime. That means that should the case go to court, it will be tried not as a "private" crime, a dispute between Melissa and Roby, but as a crime against the Republic: People of the Philippines versus Roby Martel.

There is a reason for this, the same reason rape and most recently violence against women and children were re-classified as public crimes. And that is that violence, even if it takes place within private spaces or involves people who are intimately related to each other, has no place in a civilized society and constitutes a threat to public order. Vested with the responsibility to protect its citizens from all forms of violence, the state, specifically its agencies like the police and the courts, has all the right and indeed the duty to intervene in family disputes when these turn violent. The privacy of the home is not or should not be an insurmountable barrier to every citizen's enjoyment of the right to protection and safety.

It was precisely the mentality that violence within the home and family, because it takes place in private, is acceptable and justifiable that made domestic violence and child abuse so common. To contend that Roby Martel had all the right to beat up and shoot his wife, as Melissa alleges in her complaint, simply because he was married to her is tantamount to saying that women surrender their civil rights

after marriage, and have no choice but to live with violent spouses even if they end up paying the ultimate price, their lives.

IT is unfortunate that the Martel children are involved, and that it may be fairly easy for their friends and classmates to identify them since both their parents are mentioned.

But should we stop running stories about domestic disputes simply because there's the possibility the children would suffer embarrassment and be hurt emotionally from the publicity? In the first place, in every instance of domestic violence, the children are already involved, emotional trauma would already have been inflicted, especially when the violence had been taking place over a long period. All we can do is to take care that there is no gratuitous identification of innocent parties.

What is under scrutiny here is an alleged crime committed by one adult over another—an adult he happened to be married to—with their children ending up as so-called collateral damage. Not because their mother filed suit, or because the INQUIRER ran a story on the case, but because their father apparently didn't care about the emotional trauma he was inflicting on them, and the consequences of his acts of violence.

Too often, adults act recklessly or abusively, even in the presence of their children, and then, when the s--- hits the fan, hide behind their children pleading that the police, the courts and the media ignore the wrongdoing and spare their children's feelings.

Still, I hope this isn't taken as indifference to the emotional and psychological health of the children. Even without the history of abuse they lived through, as Melissa tells it, simply by virtue of what they saw and heard that day, the children would already have been traumatized and would need counseling to come to terms with the experience. Melissa says they are currently "in denial" about the events of that day. To my mind, that is an alarming development in itself. I do hope all the adults in their lives try to salvage this regrettable situation and make sure the children don't end up the ultimate victims.

Morga

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



nor-general of the Philippines. In 1598, he resigned this post to assume the office of *oidor* or judge in the Audiencia.

Morga's fame (or infamy depending on which book or account you are reading) came in 1600, when he was put in charge of the Spanish fleet against a Dutch invasion under Olivier van Noort. Although the Dutch eventually sailed away, the Spaniards lost heavily, and according to Morga, he jumped ship and swam ashore with nothing but the enemy standard in his hand. Naturally, the Dutch account of the same battle gives the opposite view and describes Morga hiding and crying in his flagship before it sank. Following this naval battle, Morga's reputation in the colony sank, like his flagship, and in 1603 he was transferred to Mexico. This disastrous part of his career also explains why he had to write a book or a narration to explain his side of the battle. History being reliant on the written word thus propagated Morga's view for a long time.

While Rizal praises Morga for his allegedly objective account of history, the hero unfortunately didn't do a background check that would have revealed a chip in his personality. In 1615, Morga was moved from Mexico to Quito where he was made president of the Audiencia. Again, Morga found himself in trouble. In 1625, he was investigated for corruption and eventually was found guilty. However, he escaped further humiliation and the gallows by dying in 1636 before the case was settled.

A particularly malicious biographical note on Morga is provided by Wenceslao Emilio Retana in his three-volume *Aparato Bibliografico de la Historia General de Filipinas* (Bibliographical Apparatus for a General History of the Philippines). In his entry on the "Sucesos," Retana cites a domestic scandal involving Morga's daughter to prove the *oidor's* hard character. Juliana, Morga's eldest daughter, was discovered in 1602 in love with a man of lower social standing, a young captain from Mexico named Juan Alonso de Moxica who lived with an uncle in Manila, a businessman by the name of Luis Barasa. To cut a long story short, Morga had earlier stopped his 20-year-old daughter from falling for another man. But then Juliana was headstrong and resisted the normal parental measures of discipline used at the time: beating, whipping and head-shaving. The family had locked the bald Juliana in her room but she managed to escape by tying bed sheets together, which she used to clamber down from a balcony beside her bedroom to the street.

When Morga discovered his daughter had escaped (eloped?), he roused his bodyguard and tried to get her back. Many other people eventually got involved, including the governor-general himself who was brought in to persuade Juliana from her single-minded wish to marry her lover. They were all unsuccessful and Juliana, aside from making a formal petition to marry against and without her parents' consent, silenced all opposition by threatening to commit "social suicide." How? By marrying a Negro if she were not allowed to marry her lover.

Morga never spoke to his daughter again, and left her in Manila when he moved to Mexico. Of course, this is trivia and not part of our history but then, why should we make up stories when history can prove more engaging than fiction?

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Couch potato generation

TWO recent news items, one from Britain and the other from the States, should give us second thoughts about using TV to keep kids "busy" during the summer break.

Early this month, the British National Literacy Trust reviewed several studies from different countries on TV's effects on English language development and concluded that children aged 2 to 5 can benefit from good-quality educational TV, and that this educational effect is enhanced if the programs are watched together with adults, who also provide some discussion.

That's the good news. The bad news is: if these toddlers view programs intended for adults, they may be slower to develop language skills. Researchers said children who were heavy television viewers are less able to express themselves.

The other news item referred to a study from the Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle which had a rather disturbing finding: each hour in front of television seems to be associated with a 10 percent increase in chances that a child will suffer later from attention deficit disorder.

I have to emphasize that in both studies, the researchers say they were not able to establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship. Nevertheless, the findings should not come as a surprise to people who study child development.

The Seattle researchers, for example, explain that a child's brain develops rapidly during the first two or three years of life, and that television may expose the children to unrealistic levels of stimulation, especially given the way children's shows involve very rapid changes of images in an attempt to keep the children's attention.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has long recommended that children below the age of 2 should not be watching TV at all while older children should watch no more than one to two hours each day of educational, non-violent programs.

The AAP notes that "television can inform, entertain and teach us" but are concerned about other effects on children. Many Filipino parents worry most about exposure to violence and sex, a point that becomes more dramatic when you consider the American researchers' findings that a child watching three to four hours of non-educational TV each day would have seen 8,000 murders on TV by the time he or she finishes grade school. The AAP says that even if it's the "good guys" who use violence, children may begin to believe it is all right to use force to handle aggression and settle disagreements.

The AAP also worries about exposure to adult sexual behaviors, mainly because television does not show the risks and results of early sexual activity. TV also tends to glamorize the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Television commercials are a problem, too. We all know how children will remember the music, or a catchy sequence in a commercial. When the family goes shopping, children will pester parents about buying particular products they saw advertised.

We know, too, how so many of the commercials aimed at children are for junk foods. The AAP notes that children who watch too much television are more likely to be overweight for two reasons: first because they are more enticed to buy the junk food advertised on television and second because they just don't exercise as much, in other words, they become couch potatoes at an early age.

The AAP warns us too that time spent on TV is time taken away from healthier forms of social interaction with friends and family, time that could be used for playing (yes, playing's fine) and more educational activities, such as reading. In fact, many of us who are teaching in universities feel we're now getting a generation of students who cite things they "learned" from television more often than from books.

So, should we just ban television from our homes? I'd disagree. We could take advice from the AAP on setting limits on viewing, to one or two hours a day, planning what to watch, and discussing the shows' content with them. They point about planning out shows to watch is important. I regularly check the Internet for schedules of two educational cable channels: look into ngasia.com for daily schedules of National Geographic and nevermissitv.com for an entire month's schedule of Discovery. Don't forget, too, that Discovery educational videos are now available locally.

Finally, the AAP reminds us we need to have alternative activities available. This summer, look into art and sports classes, summer camps, museum and zoo visits, as well as family trips to new places, and make sure you don't end up watching TV in hotel rooms. I know it's difficult but there are always ways, too, of spicing up activities within the home, such as gardening or pets, but please, stick to sturdy, low maintenance ones such as fish if you don't have time to supervise the kids.

Since I just came from the UP College of Social Science and Philosophy's faculty workshop, I'd also appeal to colleagues in the academe to do some research into TV's effects on the young—and the not so young. I have a strong suspicion that the reason why the Philippines has sunk to the depths we're in now is this: we're run by low-bat politicians who get all their information about life, the world and governance from television and movies, not to mention acting in them.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

THEY SAID

Funds misuse

"We must stop the use of public funds now. Unless we stop the misuse of public funds during the campaign, then we shall repeat the continued misuse of public funds."

—Presidential candidate Raul Roco calling President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign a pact against the misuse of public funds

Basic considerations

"The choices vary, but the consensus is that whoever wins, we can't expect much change unless the winning candidate addresses the basic economic issues like globalization, the foreign debt, and so on."

—Kalayaan Pulido Constantino on whom to vote for in the May presidential elections

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Honesty key to voting wisely

SINCE corrupt politicians and government officials caused most of our country's problems and because we all want an honest government for a change, we should make integrity and honesty the most important considerations in choosing our leaders. But how would we know if a person is honest or not? Let me count the ways.

1. An honest person does not lie.
2. An honest person does not buy votes.
3. An honest person is a moral person (if he/she can cheat on his/her spouse, he/she can cheat the country).

4. A person's honesty is in doubt if he/she allows himself/herself to be surrounded by dishonest people.

5. A person's honesty is in doubt if he/she had been involved in a corruption scandal (where there is smoke, there is fire).

6. An honest person does not make promises that he/she obviously cannot keep (i.e., paying our country's debt, solving the poverty problem, bringing economic prosperity, etc.).

Somebody said "I do not want a high school dropout as my president." My sentiment exactly! In addition:

- I do not want a liar as my president either.
 - I do not want an adulterer as my president either.
 - I do not want a murder suspect as my president either.
- Let us use integrity and honesty, not "winnability," our main criteria for choosing our next president.

—NAZARIO DE JESUS,
Makati City

Indonesian presidential elections

AMANDO Doronila's otherwise fine column in the INQUIRER's April 12 issue contained an error. The column states "The new Indonesian system... provides... for a second-round runoff if the first stage—the parliamentary elections—failed to produce a party with a vote that can form a

government on its own right."

The new Indonesian system for directly electing the president does indeed have two rounds, provided no candidate gets 50 percent of the votes (and 20 percent in at least half of the provinces) in the first round. However, the just completed par-

liamentary elections were not the first round, as stated in the column.

The first round of the presidential elections will be held in July. If a second round becomes necessary, it will be conducted in September 2004.

—ALLEN HICKEN, ahicken@umich.edu



Moral cowardice

HAVE you observed that very few cars have stickers for a presidential candidate? Compare this with the snap elections of 1986 when almost all cars had Cory stickers or Marcos stickers.

In our school, no student group is willing to actively campaign for any presidential candidate and many students who are qualified to vote have not registered to vote. Are these indicators of the political indifference of the primary participants of Edsa I and Edsa II?

Many middle class and upper class people do not want Fernando Poe Jr. to be our next president. They criticize FPJ for his lack of intellectual and administrative competence and the dangerous cronies he keeps. But they will not lift any finger to campaign for the more worthy presidential candidates. Maybe, they are resigned to the electoral dictatorship of the masses. But are they ready for the political repudiation of the Edsa People Power Revolt and the return to power of the enemies of Edsa?

The upper and middle classes are certainly outnumbered by our lower classes

but they have many relatives, friends, neighbors and employees among the poor. Now, surely they can reach out and influence these fellow Filipinos. The poor are very reasonable and rational. They can see the truth if only we dare to believe in their capacity to think critically and wisely for the country.

If FPJ wins the presidency, and Joseph Estrada, Juan Ponce Enrile, Imelda Marcos, Danding Cojuangco and Gregorio Honasan become very powerful again in our country, the upper class and middle class with their indifference, cynicism, laziness and moral cowardice, should blame themselves.

Are you ready for FPJ's presidency? Are you ready for the political rehabilitation of Erap, Imelda, Cojuangco, Honasan, Enrile and Ernie Maceda? If you are not, get involved in the electoral campaign for real Edsa heroes.

—RAUL E. ALEJANDRINO,
professor,
Philosophy Department,
Miriam College,
Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City

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Garbage candidates

I WORK in Valenzuela City, which others call the underbelly of Metro Manila. Mind you, in the area where we work, there is no garbage collection, flood control, visible police presence, not even piped-in water. Yet, on the first day of the local campaign period, large pictures of this candidate for mayor were pasted up literally in every wall, gate, electric post and basically everything immobile. Not only that, the posters of this candidate have been placed together in rows of 10s vertically and horizontally.

I have instructed our security personnel to stop anybody from posting campaign materials on our property's wall, but still these hired vandals come like thieves in the night with impunity, leaving a trail of garbage. This is hopeless, the Commission on Elections doesn't have the will to disqualify the violators and neither are the police authorities determined to catch the offenders and their henchmen, and we poor taxpayers are left with the difficult task of cleaning other people's garbage.

I fervently pray that this candidate, whose only claim to fame is being the son of a member of a former president's notorious Midnight Cabinet, lose in such a dreadful and embarrassing manner.

—FRANCIS Y. SY,
5 Lorenzo St., ITC Compound,
Bagbaguin, Valenzuela City

Gauges of public opinion

IN A DEMOCRATIC country, "credible" surveys are important because they provide citizen feedback on many salient policy issues. To name a few, these issues, which are crucial to the nation's democratic life, are bureaucratic performance (which would ensure transparency and accountability), policymakers' performance (which would provide incentives for efficient decision-makers), and to some extent election performance (both from the candidate's and Comelec's perspective). In this sense, surveys empower the people by delivering public opinion to the consciousness of exclusive policymakers.

The problem in surveys nowadays is not really with "statistical soundness or accuracy," but more with the way surveys are conveyed to the public. Politicians laud the credibility of those survey polls that favor them and impute malice to those that go against them. The Social Weather Stations, for instance, was once scored for showing FPJ in the lead due to his familial ties to one of its founders. In the same breath, we do not see pro-administration lawmakers attacking the credibility of the SWS now that the President is in the lead. We also see this happening to Pulse Asia, which was one of the much quoted survey firms by the opposition before it released its February 2004 surveys showing Ms. Macapagal in the lead.

If we look at the recent surveys, they are relatively consistent. The discrepancy lies only in the usage of these surveys in advancing the interests of each side. The FPJ camp, in attempting to dispute the Pulse Asia survey results for February, viciously used the SWS January results when in fact they are not necessarily comparable if we consider the actual period these surveys were taken.

It is rather unfortunate that surveys are losing their credibility for the wrong reasons. Sadly, the public will be the ultimate losers in this debacle. How else will they be able to convey their sentiments on salient policy issues? What other methods would give decision-makers feedback on policy actions? While surveys do not necessarily yield "bible-truths," the fact remains that they are important gauges of public opinion.

—BRYAN A. SAN JUAN,
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Rebs hold mayor hostage, get P200,000

By **Joey A. Gabieta**
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) held captive a reelectionist mayor and her entire slate in Samar and released them after they paid P200,000 in permit-to-campaign fees.

Chief Insp. Gaudencio Vencio, police chief of Catbalogan, Samar, said the group of Mayor Chinita Gabieta of Jiabong town was abducted by a band of armed men believed to be NPA rebels at about 4 p.m. of April 16.

Gabieta paid P100,000 for her-

self and another P100,000 for the rest of her group. She has since returned home and has resumed her campaign.

The mayor's group was about to start its campaign in Barangay Dogongan, about 30 km from the town proper of Jiabong, when the

armed men approached them and brought them to the interior portion of the village.

About 30 persons were with Gabieta, in her 50s and who is running for a third term under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Among those with her were Vice Mayor Armingol Cabubas Jr., who is running for reelection, and the candidates for councilor—Oscar Abinales, Emiliano Brazas, Placida Jabien, Luisito Jabonero, Sixto Hernandez, Maria Labong, Reynaldo Limbanan and Herminigildo Mabutin.

Their supporters, who accompanied them in the campaign sortie, were also taken by the rebels.

According to Vencio, information relayed to him by a source showed that the mayor's group came from a campaign sortie in Barangay Calapi, more than a kilometer away from Dogongan.

"They were about to start their campaign rally in (Dogongan) when they were ordered to stop by the group who were brandishing high-powered firearms. They were immediately brought by the group to the outskirts of the

barangay," Vencio said in an interview over his mobile phone.

He said he learned from his source that Gabieta failed to pay the additional amount demanded by the rebels for the PTC.

The armed group initially demanded P200,000 from the candidates, which was paid by the mayor last Sunday, said Vencio, quoting a source.

But the rebels asked for more money.

"They asked for another P500,000 from the group ...," he said.

He added this was the reason the mayor and her group had been not released by the rebels believed to belong to the Arnulfo Ortiz Command of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA, which operates on Samar Island.

Vencio said he learned that the NPA rebels had been negotiating with the family of the mayor for the release of the candidates and their supporters.

He, however, said police did not know about the details on the negotiation because Gabieta's family refused to cooperate with the police.

ROUNDUP

Earth Day service

THE BRAHMA Kumaris Center for Spiritual Learning is inviting the public to an Earth Day program service that is expected to share doable techniques to enable one to heal the self and sustain the earth, according to a news release. Entitled "World Within and Without," the program of the non-government organization will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 25 in its retreat center in 1020 Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City. Facilitators are Think Clean and Think Green National Coordinator Lucy Perez and Divina Gonzalez with specialization on anthroposophy (holistic health). For details, call Tagaytay: (046) 413-2128/860-2257; Manila: (02) 890-7960; and Quezon City: (02) 922-9231.

Bomb threats in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Prank callers on April 13 pestered the Municipal Trial Court in Cities here with four bomb threats that resulted in the suspension of court-related activities. Special Antiterrorist Unit personnel and their bomb-sniffing dogs immediately searched the area but found nothing. The calls prompted Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Paul Arcangel to suspend all the activities in the building.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

P10M lost in fire

CABANATUAN CITY—About P10 million was lost in a two-and-a-half-hour fire that gutted the public market and a number of houses in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, on Wednesday last week. No one was reported hurt in the fire that started at 4:30 p.m. in the middle section of the market. The fire gutted 35 stalls, two bakeries, a four-door apartment and eight houses.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fish found floating

BAGUIO CITY—Various sizes of tilapia and carp were found floating at Burnham Lake, a popular tourist spot here, in what officials said was a fish kill on Tuesday. Water analysis showed the level of dissolved oxygen in the lake water had reached the critical 1.17 parts per million (ppm) against the normal level of 2 ppm to sustain the needed requirement for fish survival. Officials have recommended the operation of a nearby fountain to provide aeration when dissolved oxygen is low or insufficient.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Siblings slain

CALACA, Batangas—To settle an old grudge, a farmer and his son shot dead Lito Villanueva, 37, and his brother, Ignacio, 45, both residents of Barangay Puting Bato West here on Sunday. Provincial police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay said the victims both got multiple bullet wounds, resulting in the death of Lito and the serious wounding of Ignacio. Suspects Wilhelmino Endozo, 53, and son Ricky, both residents of Barangay Aromahan were being hunted by police.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmer killed in game

BAUAN, Batangas—While playing card games with friends, a farmer was shot several times in the chest by a long-time enemy on April 9. Leon Banta, 75, a farmer and resident of Barangay Cupang here, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Bauan General Hospital. His assailant, identified as Lino Arga, 50, also a resident of Barangay Cupang, fled with his gun and is now being hunted.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 die in road mishap

ATIMONAN, Quezon—A teenager and her eight-year-old brother were killed when the tricycle they were riding collided with a passenger bus along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Sta. Catalina here on Monday last week. Maricel Regalaro, 18, and her brother Ramil, both residents of the village, were pronounced dead on arrival at the Doña Marta Memorial Hospital. Tricycle driver Remeil Gonzales suffered only slight injuries. The tricycle was traversing toward Pagbilao when one of its wheels suddenly exploded, causing the vehicle to lose control and hit by an oncoming bus. The bus driver surrendered to the police.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Stone kills passenger

GUMACA, Quezon—A passenger was killed after being hit by a stone thrown at the bus he was riding in Barangay Villa Padua, Gumaca, on Wednesday. Felipe Encinas, 34, of Vinzons, Camarines Norte was in a Manila-bound bus around 10 p.m. when a loud thud was heard in the rear portion of the vehicle. When the bus conductor investigated, he saw Encinas bloodied from a gushing wound resulting from the impact of the stone thrown from the outside of the running bus. The victim was rushed to Gumaca District Hospital but also immediately transferred to East Avenue Medical Center in Manila where he died, the report said.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



TRASH
The accumulation of trash on the streets of Lucena City is made worse by more trash—campaign materials of candidates pasted on virtually every available space on the streets.

RUDY ESPERAS

Gov, Magdalo dump Remullas in Cavite polls

CALAMBA CITY—As the official campaign period for the local elections draws to a close, the political landscape in Cavite suddenly took an unexpected twist.

This after Magdalo Party ayond—bearer and incumbent Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi withdrew his support from Cristiano "Boying" Remulla, the group's official candidate for congressman in the province's third district.

In a statement he issued on April 14, Maliksi announced his decision to support Remulla's rival, incumbent Silang Mayor Ruben Madlangasay, "in the interest of justice and real democracy."

Madlangasay was a former member of the Magdalo and is now running as an independent candidate.

Maliksi accused the powerful Remulla clan, his long-time political ally in Cavite, of

"political warlordism."

Remulla's patriarch, former Gov. Johnny Remulla, is one of the founders of the Magdalo Party. The group is ardently supporting presidential candidate and province mate Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"For me, it's clear that the sudden fielding of Boying by the Remullas is for them to get full control of the political power in the province. So, even if I regret it, I disagree with this unexpected maneuver of the Remullas," Maliksi said.

"Come to think of it, I believe it was high time that we end political warlordism in our province," he said.

Maliksi said Remulla's candidacy was an injustice to Madlangasay since he (Remulla) is not a resident of the third district.

He said he would stand by his decision to support Madlangasay because "it is what my

conscience tells me."

Remulla admitted that Maliksi's decision came as a big surprise to their family.

Two of Remulla's brothers are also running under Magdalo, including Maliksi's running mate and incumbent Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla and incumbent Rep. Gilbert Remulla of the second district.

He said during several political gatherings in January and February, Maliksi had even raised his hand as "he publicly endorsed my candidacy under the Magdalo Party."

But despite Maliksi's withdrawal of support, Remulla said their family and their supporters are not angry with the governor. He also denied reports which said they are now talking with Epimaco Velasco, the administration's gubernatorial candidate. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Party-list groups sue soldiers

By **Jolene R. Bulambot**
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Party-list groups Bayan Muna and Anakpawis yesterday filed charges against nine soldiers before the Commission on Elections provincial office for preventing them from campaigning in Danao City, Cebu.

Gleamar Bacusmo, Anakpawis regional chair, and Magilda Abella, Bayan Muna field organizer, said the soldiers violated the provisions of the Fair Elections Act of 2001 as well as the Omnibus Election Code.

Of the nine soldiers, only three were identified through their family names. They were Sergeants Mantigao and Alab-ab and a certain Sellote, all of the 78th IB in Sogod town, 59 km north of this city.

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Anakpawis and Bayan Muna representatives were conducting a voters' education campaign in Barangay Santican, Danao, about 33 km north of here.

He said they were distributing leaflets on the elections and the party-list system when the nine soldiers allegedly cordoned them and prevented them from campaigning.

Bacusmo noted that the soldiers smelled of liquor and were visibly intoxicated when they told their group that Bayan Muna and Anakpawis were not allowed to campaign in the area.

He also alleged that the military has converted the barangay hall of Sitio Binalbagan into a military barracks where the town's elementary school is located nearby.

Abella corroborated Bacusmo's allegation, saying that the soldiers even raised their rifles at their group, prompting them to stop campaigning.

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duced in Mindanao are sufficient to supply the domestic demand and foreign markets.

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She cited China, which had recently expressed its desire to import more vegetables particularly carrots during "off season."

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Out of the total production volume, some 25,512 metric tons valued at around P298 million were shipped out of Mindanao for domestic or foreign markets.

There are at least 20,092 hectares of vegetable areas in Mindanao, about 7,150.73 hectares are in Southern Mindanao. Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Rebs hold mayor hostage, get P200,000

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) held captive a reelectionist mayor and her entire slate in Samar and released them after they paid P200,000 in permit-to-campaign fees.

Chief Insp. Gaudencio Vencio, police chief of Catbalogan, Samar, said the group of Mayor Chinita Gabieta of Jibabong town was abducted by a band of armed men believed to be NPA rebels at about 4 p.m. of April 16.

Gabieta paid P100,000 for her-

self and another P100,000 for the rest of her group. She has since returned home and has resumed her campaign.

The mayor's group was about to start its campaign in Barangay Dogongan, about 30 km from the town proper of Jibabong, when the

armed men approached them and brought them to the interior portion of the village.

About 30 persons were with Gabieta, in her 50s and who is running for a third term under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Among those with her were Vice Mayor Armingol Cabubas Jr., who is running for reelection, and the candidates for councilor—Oscar Abinales, Emiliano Brazas, Placida Jabien, Luisito Jabonero, Sixto Hernandez, Maria Labong, Reynaldo Limbanan and Herminigildo Mabutin.

Their supporters, who accompanied them in the campaign sortie, were also taken by the rebels.

According to Vencio, information relayed to him by a source showed that the mayor's group came from a campaign sortie in Barangay Calapi, more than a kilometer away from Dogongan.

"They were about to start their campaign rally in (Dogongan) when they were ordered to stop by the group who were brandishing high-powered firearms. They were immediately brought by the group to the outskirts of the

barangay," Vencio said in an interview over his mobile phone.

He said he learned from his source that Gabieta failed to pay the additional amount demanded by the rebels for the PTC.

The armed group initially demanded P200,000 from the candidates, which was paid by the mayor last Sunday, said Vencio, quoting a source.

But the rebels asked for more money.

"They asked for another P500,000 from the group ...," he said.

He added this was the reason the mayor and her group had been not released by the rebels believed to belong to the Arnulfo Ortiz Command of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA, which operates on Samar Island.

Vencio said he learned that the NPA rebels had been negotiating with the family of the mayor for the release of the candidates and their supporters.

He, however, said police did not know about the details on the negotiation because Gabieta's family refused to cooperate with the police.

ROUNDUP

Earth Day service

THE BRAHMA Kumaris Center for Spiritual Learning is inviting the public to an Earth Day program service that is expected to share doable techniques to enable one to heal the self and sustain the earth, according to a news release. Entitled "World Within and Without," the program of the non-government organization will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 25 in its retreat center in 1020 Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City. Facilitators are Think Clean and Think Green National Coordinator Lucy Perez and Divina Gonzalez with specialization on anthroposophy (holistic health). For details, call Tagaytay: (046) 413-2128/860-2257; Manila: (02) 890-7960; and Quezon City: (02) 922-9231.

Bomb threats in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Prank callers on April 13 pestered the Municipal Trial Court in Cities here with four bomb threats that resulted in the suspension of court-related activities. Special Antiterrorist Unit personnel and their bomb-sniffing dogs immediately searched the area but found nothing. The calls prompted Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Paul Arcangel to suspend all the activities in the building.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PIOM lost in fire

CABANATUAN CITY—About P10 million was lost in a two-and-a-half-hour fire that gutted the public market and a number of houses in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, on Wednesday last week. No one was reported hurt in the fire that started at 4:30 p.m. in the middle section of the market. The fire gutted 35 stalls, two bakeries, a four-door apartment and eight houses.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fish found floating

BAGUIO CITY—Various sizes of tilapia and carp were found floating at Burnham Lake, a popular tourist spot here, in what officials said was a fish kill on Tuesday. Water analysis showed the level of dissolved oxygen in the lake water had reached the critical 1.17 parts per million (ppm) against the normal level of 2 ppm to sustain the needed requirement for fish survival. Officials have recommended the operation of a nearby fountain to provide aeration when dissolved oxygen is low or insufficient.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Siblings slain

CALACA, Batangas—To settle an old grudge, a farmer and his son shot dead Lito Villanueva, 37, and his brother, Ignacio, 45, both residents of Barangay Puting Bato West here on Sunday. Provincial police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay said the victims both got multiple bullet wounds, resulting in the death of Lito and the serious wounding of Ignacio. Suspects Wilhelmino Endozo, 53, and son Ricky, both residents of Barangay Aromahan were being hunted by police.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmer killed in game

BAUAN, Batangas—While playing card games with friends, a farmer was shot several times in the chest by a long-time enemy on April 9. Leon Banta, 75, a farmer and resident of Barangay Cupang here, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Bauan General Hospital. His assailant, identified as Lino Arga, 50, also a resident of Barangay Cupang, fled with his gun and is now being hunted.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 die in road mishap

ATIMONAN, Quezon—A teenager and her eight-year-old brother were killed when the tricycle they were riding collided with a passenger bus along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Sta. Catalina here on Monday last week. Maricel Regalario, 18, and her brother Ramil, both residents of the village, were pronounced dead on arrival at the Doña Maria Memorial Hospital. Tricycle driver Remmell Gonzales suffered only slight injuries. The tricycle was traversing toward Pagbilao when one of its wheels suddenly exploded, causing the vehicle to lose control and hit by an oncoming bus. The bus driver surrendered to the police.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Stone kills passenger

GUMACA, Quezon—A passenger was killed after being hit by a stone thrown at the bus he was riding in Barangay Villa Padua. Gumaca, on Wednesday, Felipe Encinas, 34, of Vinzons, Camarines Norte was in a Manila-bound bus around 10 p.m. when a loud thud was heard in the rear portion of the vehicle. When the bus conductor investigated, he saw Encinas bloodied from a gushing wound resulting from the impact of the stone thrown from the outside of the running bus. The victim was rushed to Gumaca District Hospital but also immediately transferred to East Avenue Medical Center in Manila where he died, the report said.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



TRASH
The accumulation of trash on the streets of Lucena City is made worse by more trash—campaign materials of candidates pasted on virtually every available space on the streets.

RUDY ESPERAS

Gov, Magdalo dump Remullas in Cavite polls

CALAMBA CITY—As the official campaign period for the local elections draws to a close, the political landscape in Cavite suddenly took an unexpected twist.

This after Magdalo Party standard-bearer and incumbent Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi withdrew his support from Cristano "Boying" Remulla, the group's official candidate for congressman in the province's third district.

In a statement he issued on April 14, Maliksi announced his decision to support Remulla's rival, incumbent Silang Mayor Ruben Madlangasay, "in the interest of justice and real democracy."

Madlangasay was a former member of the Magdalo and is now running as an independent candidate.

Maliksi accused the powerful Remulla clan, his long-time political ally in Cavite, of

"political warlordism."

Remulla's patriarch, former Gov. Johnny Remulla, is one of the founders of the Magdalo Party. The group is ardently supporting presidential candidate and province mate Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"For me, it's clear that the sudden fielding of Boying by the Remullas is for them to get full control of the political power in the province. So, even if I regret it, I disagree with this unexpected maneuver of the Remullas," Maliksi said.

"Come to think of it, I believe it was high time that we end political warlordism in our province," he said.

Maliksi said Remulla's candidacy was an injustice to Madlangasay since he (Remulla) is not a resident of the third district.

He said he would stand by his decision to support Madlangasay because "it is what my

conscience tells me."

Remulla admitted that Maliksi's decision came as a big surprise to their family.

Two of Remulla's brothers are also running under Magdalo, including Maliksi's running mate and incumbent Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla and incumbent Rep. Gilbert Remulla of the second district.

He said during several political gatherings in January and February, Maliksi had even raised his hand as "he publicly endorsed my candidacy under the Magdalo Party."

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Food poisoning downs 200 in Lipa

LIPA CITY—About 200 workers of Pilipinas Kyohitsu Inc. (PKI) and Jideco Inc. in this city were brought to hospitals here and in nearby Tanauan City due to what the Provincial Health Office believed as E.coli contamination.

"There is high probability that the food poisoning was caused by E. coli, a fecal bacteria that causes gastro-intestinal disorder," said Dr. Isagani Bolompo, the provincial health officer.

Bolompo said the symptoms and stomach disorders of the employees also indicated E.coli contamination.

"Lipa's city health officer, Dr. Rommel Lojo, has already admitted that the food poisoning might have been caused by contaminated gelatin and mango shake that were served by the canteen concessionaire of PKI and Jideco. Both companies have the same canteen concessionaire," Bolompo said.

He said E.coli thrives in cold.

The gelatin was served in the cold drink gulaman juice, while the mango shake was also served cold.

Bolompo said the bacteria E. coli was caused by fecal contamination, and in the case of food, could have been caused by untreated water or mis-handling of food. Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandyrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Greening Baguio City

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

IT JUST isn't easy being green, but Baguio City's professional community will not let that affect the restoration of the country's summer capital.

Both government and private architects unveiled five cross-sections of a redesigned Baguio last week, and the results were less a reworking of a future city, and more a repudiation of what it had become, said Joseph Alabanza, former presidential ad-

viser on urban reforms.

Concrete overpasses that dominate most downtown intersections today will be stripped bare, giving way to sky platforms that will provide floating parks to traffic-weary pedestrians.

The city's skyline will also need to change. Most of the experts want a new ordinance that will limit the height of buildings, disturbed as they are by the towers and shopping malls that have altered the skyline.

The architects, engineers, sociologists and civic workers who drew up some 20 plates of a "reinvented" Baguio landscape belonged to an urban design master course of Alabanza at the city's Saint Louis University.

A former city architect, Alabanza had been pushing for a "less congested" Baguio for the better part of his career.

Rafael Chan, principal architect of RG & Associates and one of the "new Baguio's" architects, said Alabanza had asked his urban renewal class to "dream up" its version of a green city, "without being bothered by politics or economics."

Sense of place

Their resulting plans capitalized on Alabanza's conviction that a future Baguio should explore its "sense of place." It is the only city that was designed from the ground up by the American colonial government in 1909.

Alabanza said the reliance on heavy infrastructure is a manifestation of its inability to cope with its abnormally high in-migration rate. Shopping malls,

such as SM City Baguio, cater to this huge population, but these same people also tax the city's resources, he said.

The planners offered to alter only a few sections of the 300-square meter Burnham Park, the main park named after Baguio's original architect, Daniel Burnham.

Edwin Ancheta, an engineer, redesigned the public market by putting trees on small alleys, which the government had designated as staging areas for public utility jeepneys.

Chan proposed to remove all concrete domes that envelope the Malcom Square, one of the few city plazas, as well as the skating rink at Burnham.

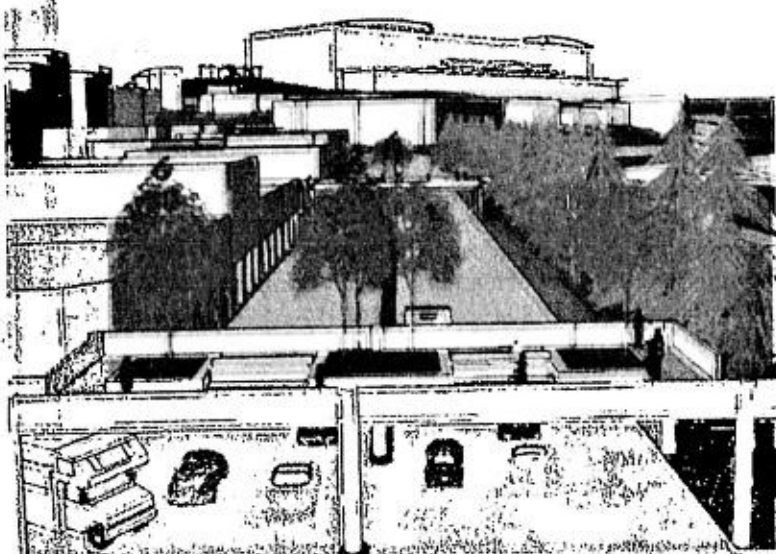
"There are very few open spaces left in Baguio. The idea is not to cover them. People need to look up to the sky," Chan said.

This concept applies to all pedestrian overpasses, which the team plans to convert into elevated parks.

Crucial to these plans is the preservation of Session Road, the main road in the downtown area. Chan's design packs the road with trees in a "grand re-envisioning of the area."

Session Road should be restricted to pedestrians, Alabanza said.

Vehicular traffic, therefore, will skirt the downtown road grid that now leads straight to the SM City Baguio, said Chan.



AN ARTIST'S concept of an overhead park along Harrison Road, toward Burnham Park in Baguio City.

TV
MUSIC TELEVISION

polling question 2.
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B. an intelligent president
C. a president who is pro-youth
Key in RTV2 (answer) and send it to 269. Example RTV2 A

rock the vote

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- All ADDICT MOBILE subscribers in Cebu, come and visit the SM Cebu SMART Wireless Center on April 29 and 30 to get limited premium items when you subscribe to your addictions.
- Show your 0200 Motorola phones at the Motorola merchandising office to get your FREE concert ticket. Look for Rosalie Puentes, Innovisions Inc. at Unit 2, 2nd flr., G.F. Sy Bldg. 57 Corredo Ave., Iloilo City (tel no. 022-234-2010 or 022-231-5823) or show any Motorola phone at the Motorola booth at the entrance on May 1 and get your FREE ticket.
- Call SM City Cebu office at tel no. 032-232-0296.

Street kids relish flight over Pinatubo

By Tonette Orejas
Clark Special Economic Zone

THIRTY-TWO wards of the Bahay Bata Center Foundation in Angeles City got their dreams of fun and adventure fulfilled. Their wish-maker, South East Asian Airlines (Seair), treated them to a 30-minute mid-morning flight over Mt. Pinatubo last month.

From Seair's headquarters in Clark, they were flown in three batches on the company's 19-seat LET-410 plane. It was the first plane ride of the children, aged 8 to 16, who showed little fear for flying.

Soaring at 6,500 feet above sea level, the plane hovered around the volcano's rainwater-filled crater, 3 km in diameter, which was formed after the June 1991 eruptions.

The sun and the wind cooperated for what might be a once-in-a-lifetime event, and the children got a complete view of the scenic lake and the now greening environs of the Zambales mountain range. It seemed that Pinatubo has ceased being just a word or a vague concept for them.

Most of the children were not yet born when the eruptions, the world's most catastrophic in the 20th century, killed almost 2,000 people, displaced more than a million residents, damaged P2 billion worth of private and government property, and hastened the pullout of the 13th United States Air Force from Clark.

Lahar or volcanic mudflows coming from the slopes buried more than 100 villages during the rainy seasons. Thousands of farms in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales were destroyed.

Most of the families of Seair's special guests belonged to settlers in Barangays Cuayan and Anunas, just outside the fence of Clark.

Secured on their seats, the children stretched their necks to get the best view from the plane's window. Intermittently, they screamed in delight and silently savored the sight of clouds.

Their smiles betrayed their experiences of neglect, abuse, abandonment or poverty.

Seair officials said they chose to spend the firm's 9th founding anniversary with these children to bring back the

smile on their faces.

Social workers plucked them out of the streets of Angeles City. The Rotary Club of Clark Centennial, which also has American traders among its members, established the Bahay Bata Center Foundation in 2001 with assistance from the local government.

"Celebrating among ourselves is not enough. We want to go back to our roots, and the roots are where the children are. We want to give children the chance to fly with us and let them enjoy the experience of flying," said Iren Dornier, Seair chair.

Dornier said this was the second time that the airline firm spent its anniversary with street children.

In 2003, Seair brought the wards of the Manila-based Child Hope Foundation to Clark for a day of interaction with Aeta children from the Calumpang Elementary School in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Seair was the first domestic airline company that settled in Clark when much of the American military air base was still covered by ash and sand.

From a once-a-day flight serving resorts in Boracay and Palawan, Dornier said the company is now the official flag carrier of 20 tourist destinations in the Philippines.

In February, it launched the country's first amphibious aircraft, the DO24 AT, to mark the centennial of the world aviation industry.

Nikos Gitsis, Seair director, said the company has ventured "into new and neglected parts of the country where there is great potential in terms of air traffic."

"This is Seair's way of living up to its commitment to connect the Philippine islands," Gitsis said.

Seair has also been appointed as one of the official carriers for the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area.

A new look for Museo Ilocos

By Cristina Arzadon
Laoag City

THE ORIGINAL planks of the centuries-old Ilocos Norte museum will soon be seen through a 2.5-meter by 11-meter open pit exhibit to provide visitors a glimpse of the structure's history.

National Museum representatives excavated 12 layers of flooring to expose the cobbled brick tiles that were once the original floor of the museum.

The Museo Ilocos is among the few remaining Spanish-era icons in the city. It was originally used as a tobacco storage house.

Restoration

Built during the 18th century, the structure had since undergone several restoration works and had been transformed into a museum of artifacts of the Ilocanos' cultural heritage.

"If you enter a museum, the first thing you want to know is its history. The open pit is an added feature. The construction of the building itself is part of the rich cultural heritage of Ilocos," Angel Bautista, National Museum senior researcher, said.

The exhibit is set to be unveiled next month, complete with a timeline of the multiple layers that have piled up through the years.

The excavation, found at the eastern corner of the museum's main door, is encased temporarily in a glass panel to give viewers an underground view of the original floor level.

History

The National Museum is piecing together significant historical dates around the world to reconcile the construction of the museum with other important chapters of world history.

Al Valenciano, Museo Ilocos' artistic director, said excavators also noted smaller windows at the base of the structure, which have been filled up with cement.

"Contrary to popular belief, the windows did not serve as added ventilation. They served as architectural support such that during an earthquake, a likely crack on the walls would not split the structure directly down the base," Valenciano said.

Bautista said peeling the layers of floors to expose the original one had been done in various museums in other countries.

"The Museo Ilocos is unique if you compare it with other museums in the country because we haven't done such excavation elsewhere," he said.

"We also exposed some unique types of the wall which would be interesting to architectural students," he added.

The National Museum has also an-

nounced the start of restoration work on the St. Augustine Church, popularly known as the Paoay Church and one of the World Heritage sites.

Paoay Church

The church had revealed several structural decays after centuries of being exposed to the elements.

Bautista said a study on the church's structural stability would be

conducted before the restoration. Primarily, the church walls would be tested for strength to determine whether these could withstand restoration works.

An excavation conducted inside the church in 2000 revealed a prehistoric human skeleton and fragmented ceramics. The artifacts are now on display at the National Museum.

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"FPJ can continue what Marcos did for the poor."

— Imelda Marcos
(April 15, 2004)

MAYBE for the first time, Imelda Marcos, the flamboyant wife of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is right.

Marcos made the poor poorer, the entire Philippines poorer. FPJ will, too.

FPJ all his working life has done nothing for the poor, never even thought about the poor.

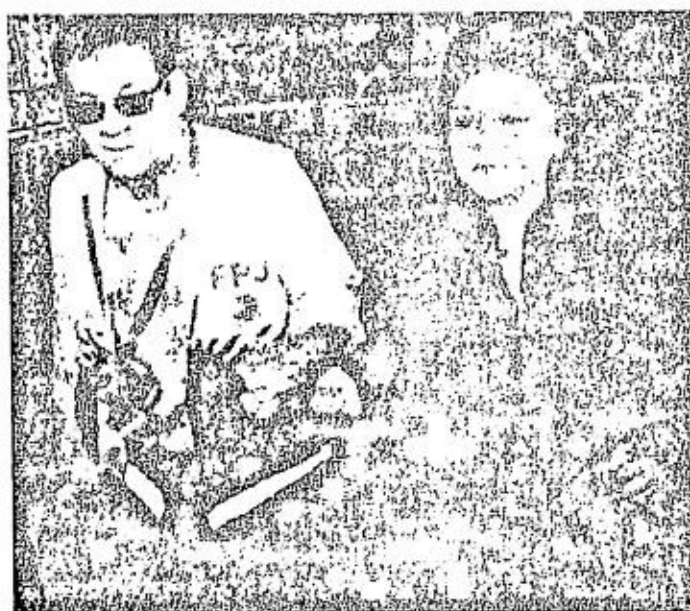
He merely amassed wealth — he has a mansion in Greenhills, several other "rest houses", and he has been funding the rich lifestyle of his past mistresses — by exploiting the people's need for fantasy.

He never shared his movie profits to his production and acting staff. Not even to his stuntmen who doubled for him in dangerous action sequences.

AND AFTER ALL, Fernando Poe Jr. has with him in his senatorial ticket and in his retinue of advisers all the surviving Marcos men, who will certainly do a repeat of what Marcos did to the poor, and to the entire Filipino people, if FPJ is elected President.

To name a few: Enrile, Talad, Maceda, Angara, Honasan, Mendoza, et al. They were prominent Marcos' men who did every bidding of the dictator. They even outdid Marcos himself in certain occasions.

What did Marcos do for the poor?



Happily holding hands with Imelda.

ACCORDING to the 2004 Global Corruption Report issued recently by the Transparency International, Marcos stole from US\$5 to 10 billion from the people from 1972 to 1986. He ranked second in the top 10 most notorious leaders of the last 20 years in terms of corruption. It was during the term of Marcos that the Philippines sank from being among the top economies in Asia to become the "sick man of Asia." The poor became poorer during the time of Marcos.

WHAT ELSE DID MARCOS DO TO THE POOR? During his reign, he incarcerated, tortured and violated the human rights of more than 70,000 people, many of whom were poor peasants, workers and students who resisted his dictatorship. He also caused the disappearance and salvaging of thousands of people.

We call on the people, particularly the poor, to therefore reject all those who were with Marcos during the dark days of his dictatorship.

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Largest US pension fund to stay in RP

From page A1

The Sacramento, California-based pension fund has roughly \$67 million in investments in local stocks.

Transparency, openness

It had threatened to pull out its investments on grounds that the country had failed to make the grade on its scorecard for transparency and openness in emerging markets.

After a review, the investment staff at CalPERS agreed that the Philippines deserved a higher score for its recent reforms to shareholder rights, a spokesperson said.

Ms Macapagal said the board of directors of CalPERS called her to relay the latest development, which has been a major concern among foreign and local stock investors in the past months.

"(CalPERS) has finalized where it will put its money and it has given the Philippines its highest rating so far," the President said. "It considers the Philippines as a very attractive investment [site] because of the reforms we have put in place."

Reversing an earlier, unfavorable recommendation by consultant Wilshire Associates, CalPERS' investment committee unanimously voted to give the country a score of 2.12 for the 2004 assessment period.

This exceeded CalPERS' minimum passing mark of 2, which is needed for a country to be retained on the fund's investment destination list.

Fund managers surprised

Last February, the country got a score of only 1.87 based on Wilshire's assessment, which was

contested by the Philippine delegation.

Some fund managers and strategists were surprised by CalPERS' decision yesterday. The Philippines has a 0.6 percent weighting in the MSCI Asia ex-Japan Index.

"The move on the Philippines is a surprise, given that they have presidential elections next month. The Philippine market is very cheap but you may see some gyrations in the currency and bond spreads ahead of next month's elections," said Stephen Corry, regional equity strategist at Merrill Lynch.

At the CalPERS meeting, India also passed the investment test, winning an endorsement that is likely to spur more foreign stock buying in the emerging markets.

Malacañang reported that only 17 of 27 countries reviewed by CalPERS' investment committee passed the benchmark and only five Asian countries made the grade, including Malaysia, South Korea and Taiwan.

Dire impact

Calpers' exposure in the Philippines represents 2.8 percent of the local bourse and its pullout would have had a dire impact on stock prices and would have caused other fund managers to shun the country.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco: "We thank CalPERS for the willingness and openness to work with the Philippine team led by Ambassador (to the US) Albert del Rosario."

Del Rosario told the CalPERS board after its favorable announcement, said: "It is a recognition of the economic reforms being undertaken by the adminis-

tration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and reflects the continuing confidence in the Philippines as an attractive investment destination."

Earlier concerns about the Philippines focused on market practices and business conduct in the country, as well as efforts against money laundering.

The other members of the Philippine delegation credited with persuading CalPERS to reconsider were Finance Assistant Secretary Jeremias Paul, Philippine Embassy Political Minister Lourdes Yparraguirre and Philippine Stock Exchange independent director Francis Lim.

Main reason

While the CalPERS decision helped boost the local stock market, some traders and fund managers said this was not really the big reason for the jump.

"I think the market priced in CalPERS already, the decision was discounted," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer of ING Investment Management Philippines.

"If they had wanted the Philippines out [of their investment list], they would have done so long ago. The impact was not that much."

The benchmark composite index surged 28.48 points or 1.9 percent yesterday to 1,525.96 with the value of trades thin at P533 million.

Traders said that what drove the market's optimism was a stronger peso, a slowdown in government spending, and Ms Macapagal's lead in approval ratings ahead of the elections.

"It's probably a delayed reaction to a stronger peso and [hopes] that GMA will win from the surveys, the sidelining of

(presidential candidate Raul) Rocho and the inability of the opposition to unite," a head trader at a foreign brokerage firm said.

Joseph Madrid, head of sales at Philippine Equity Partners Inc., said the March Budget deficit reflected government's resolve to rein in spending, which could ease pressure on interest rates.

Market euphoria

"Considering that elections are just around the corner, you'd think government spent more to get votes but that wasn't the case and you actually saw a slowdown in spending growth," Madrid said.

"I'd say the market euphoria was caused by that and the fact that the (political) opposition is not unified," Madrid added.

Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) chair Alicia Arroyo said CalPERS' decision "confirms that the [market] reforms implemented have begun to reap their benefits."

Arguing the country's case before CalPERS, the Philippine panel said the fund's earlier scorecard on the Philippines had ignored recent developments.

The Philippines was put on a CalPERS watch list last year and given a one-year probation before the fund reconsidered withdrawing its investments.

"What we were trying to achieve here is not really to encourage the entry of more investments, but to make them recognize that the reforms they were looking for had long been put in place," said Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto.

Positive news

Beryl Ang, a member of the Philippine team, said the improvement in the Philippines' score was brought about by adjustments in

the evaluation of the country's securities regulatory environment and the equities market.

Philippine Exporters Federation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said CalPERS' decision was the latest in a string of positive economic news—following the sharp appreciation in the peso and gains in Philippine debt papers—that have renewed confidence in the country.

"This shows that some analysts might have overestimated investors'

concern on who would win the elections because all that the businessmen care about is the country's fundamentals," Ortiz-Luis said.

Donald Dee, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry executive vice president, said CalPERS' move showed that investors were beginning to look at the Philippines in a more positive light.

He said it had now become more important to ensure that the elections were kept clean and credible. *With a report from Reuters*

Who's Ho? 2 top execs return honorary degrees

From page A1

tanislao, a former finance secretary, wrote a letter informing the AUF of their decision, said an official of the university who asked not to be named.

The AUF received the letter on April 15, but it has yet to receive the diplomas of the two men, the source said in a phone interview.

Cuisia and Estanislao took a leaf from what Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, a former president of the AUF and of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, had done as a result of the university's conferment of an honorary degree on the Hong Kong-based Ho last month.

At that time, Cruz tore up his diploma and asked AUF officials to remove his name from the list of the university's recipients of honorary degrees.

The archbishop, who is leading the Church's fight against illegal gambling, said he had received a copy of Cuisia and Estanislao's letter to the AUF and understood their sentiments.

"I understand their embarrassment at having been given a doctorate [by a university] that also gave the same degree to Stanley Ho," he said.

According to Cruz, Cuisia "did not want to be included in the list of grantees along with Ho," and Estanislao "preferred to be excluded from the honor roll that bears the name of Ho."

"[We] do not question the prerogative of the AUF to grant honorary degrees to anybody it considers deserving, Cruz said. "But [we] also consider it [our] prerogative to return the honor given [to us]."

'Intrigues'

Asked to confirm the letter of Cuisia and Estanislao, AUF vice chair Emmanuel Angeles said: "I don't know. I have no comment. Those are intrigues."

Neither Cuisia nor Estanislao could be reached for comment. Cruz said he did not personally

know Cuisia and Estanislao and did not influence them in their decision.

"I only learned about it when they wrote me saying that they have returned their doctorate diplomas to the AUF," he said.

The AUF conferred the honorary doctorate in humanities on Ho, 82, at the grand ballroom of the Holiday Inn in Clark on March 22.

Ho, reputed to be one of the world's wealthiest men, flew to Clark aboard his private jet and returned to Hong Kong after eight hours.

He was met at the airport and escorted throughout his stay by Dan Roldada, supposedly the presidential adviser on foreign investments.

The visit, Ho's first after four years, triggered reports that the conferment ceremony was a cover for a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, and that he had given a hefty campaign contribution in exchange for approval of gambling projects in the country.

Malacañang denied these reports. It also denied knowing Roldada, but later identified him as a presidential assistant, and not adviser, on foreign investments.

'Good faith'

In a statement on March 26, the AUF said Ho's itinerary "did not include any alleged meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo inside Clark."

It said the university's decision to confer an honorary degree on Ho was "done in good faith," and cited his "achievements and contributions to education, research and global business."

Angeles, whose parents established the AUF in 1962, had also earlier said "no meeting" took place between Ho and Ms Macapagal during the gambling mogul's visit.

Ms Macapagal appointed Angeles president of the Clark Development Corp. in March 2001. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dolphy will not renew deal

From page A1

been working for over 60 years now. He deserves it."

Dolphy is now taping advance episodes for "Home Along Da Airport," that also stars, among other people, comedienne Nova Villa and Dolphy's son Van Dolphy.

US bound

Dolphy, Rodolfo Quizon in real life, will turn 76 on July 25, but he won't be here for the birthday celebration. After taping his television series, he is scheduled to leave for the United States for a series of shows with his partner, singer Zsa Zsa Padilla, Eric said. "But as to when he will retire, only my father would know," he added.

The younger Quizon also admitted he was present when ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez and executive vice president for entertainment Charo Santos-Concio visited Dolphy at his home in Marina Bay, Pasay City, last March after news broke out that "Home Along" would be axed allegedly because Dolphy was campaigning for presidential candidate and fellow actor Fernando Poe Jr.

"I was there," said Eric. "But whatever they talked about was between them. I don't want to jeopardize my dad's relationship with the network by publicly talking about it."

According to several INQUIRER sources, the cancellation had been part of a deal allegedly struck by the Lopezes with Malacañang in exchange for the government decision to take over Maynilad Water Services Inc.

ABS-CBN executives had denied the report, and Dolphy has remained silent on the subject.

"But I don't think the news will come out if there's no grain of truth to it," Eric said. "However,

my dad will continue to abide by his contract. He is a principled man. *Hindi mo mabibili iyon.* (He can't be bought)."

Industry insiders claim Associate Broadcasting Corp. Channel 5 is courting Dolphy for a high-profile transfer to the revitalized broadcast network now controlled by businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco.

"He would always confide in me. I also help work out deals for him. But when it comes to movie and TV show offers, that's his decision," said Eric.

The INQUIRER later received a call from Eric's manager, Dolor Guevara saying she had talked with Eric who told her he never said anything about Dolphy not renewing his contract with ABS-CBN. "He simply said his dad wanted to rest," Guevara stressed.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, ABS-CBN said Eric's statement came as a "surprise to ABS-CBN."

"ABS-CBN have not been formally informed by Dolphy of his desire not to renew his contract with the network, with which he has had a longstanding relationship spanning the last 50 years. Moreover, the network considers Dolphy a true *kapamilya* having been a friend of the Lopez family."

"ABS-CBN concurs with Mr. Quizon's statement that he was present at the comedian's Marina Bay residence last month, during the visit of ABS-CBN chair Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III and executive vice president Charo Santos-Concio. However, neither the young Mr. Quizon nor Dolphy's partner Zsa Zsa Padilla was present in the private meeting, attended only by Dolphy, Mr. Lopez and Ms Concio where matters and issues were discussed."



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MAGPAKALALAKI KA!

Sa halip na nagtatago ka sa likuran ng tinatawag na Bantay Bayan Foundation na alam naman ng karamihan na ikaw ang nasa likod, LUMANTAD KA.

Ang mga paratang na iyong inilalahad laban sa akin ay pinalalabas mong patama kay Sen. Loren Legarda na walang kinalaman sa mga ito. Ang gusto mong mangyari ay ayon sa kasabihan sa Katagalugan, "ang hampas sa kabayo, sa kalabaw ang latay!" Sana ay hindi na ako lalahok o kikibo man lamang sa halatang ito tulad ng aming pinagkasunduan ni Loren, ngunit kinaladkad mo ako kayat kailangan namang ipagtanggol ko ang sarili ko.

Kung tunay na meron kang reklamo sa akin, MAGPANGITA TAYO SA HUSGADO.

Lahat ng binanggit mo sa mga bayarang patalastas mo laban sa akin ay sinagot ko nang paulit-ulit noon pa. But for your own benefit and so that "the issues may be now joined," here it is again:
Bintang: "Fortune Island ... napasakamay ni Tony malapos umanong gamitin ni Loren ang kanyang impluwensiya bilang isang broadcaster at senadora."

Sagot: Malaon na, bago pa man dumating sa buhay ko si Loren, ang Fortune Island ay aking naging pag-aari na. I acquired Fortune Island "for value and in good faith" and anyone who wants to dispute my ownership is welcome to charge me in court.

Bintang: "... P330 milyong proyekto na main drainage sa Lico river ni Tony na pinondohan umano ng CDF ni Loren."

Sagot: Hindi ko alam na mayroong ganitong project sa Wawa, Nasugbu. At kung meron man, ay wala akong kinalaman, at hinahamon ko ang sinuman na magharap ng kahit na isa man lamang sa mga sinasabing "... 300 pamilya ng mga mangingisda sa Wawa" na nagpoprotesta laban sa akin.

Bintang: "Small Islands, big problems"

Samantala, ang higit na mahalaga ay tulungan mo ang iyong sarili na linisin ang iyong pangalan at sagutin ang mga patung-patong na mga akusasyon laban sa iyo tulad ng mga sumusunod:

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- Noli de Castro's chop-chop and other early corrupt activities
- Blackmail is another favorite tactic employed by Noli de Castro
- Mr. Noli de Castro has cashed in ... cases by killing these stories

Sagot: I have worked hard all my life and deserve everything I've achieved. Kung malawak man ang aking mga lupa, ito'y bunga ng aking pagpupunyagi. I've never used, or needed, the influence of my wife. In fact, all my current properties were acquired before I married Loren and if anyone wishes to dispute this, he can file his claim in court.

Bintang: "Land titling problems due to inefficiency"

Sagot: Ang "P40.5 milyong Inaani bawat taon ng aking mga resort clubs" ay isa na namang kabalalan. Gayon pa man, kung ano man ang kinikita ko sa aking hanapbuhay bunga ng aking pagsisikap is my own business.

Sa kabilang dako, kung ano man ang depekto ng kasalukuyang "Land Titling Law" is none of my business at hindi dapat sa akin isisi.

Noli de Castro: The X factor Newsbreak, December 8, 2003

An executive of ABS-CBN admits that the networks' big bosses, the Lopezes, are among those who want de Castro president by 2004. "They do not trust the Arroyo administration and they are not

comfortable with the other candidates," the executive said. "Noli is their man, and he has more than just a good chance of winning."

GMA sweetheart deal converts P18B in Lopez debts into equity Daily Tribune, February 25, 2004

NGO says govt cut P18-B deal to bailout Maynilad Manila Times, February 25, 2004

Alleged bailout of Lopez water firm hit BusinessWorld, February 25, 2004

A nongovernment organization yesterday rejected the alleged government bailout of the Lopez-led Maynilad Water Services, Inc. insisting the Arroyo administration could neither afford to forego collection of P8 billion in unpaid concession fees nor incur a fresh \$220-million debt.

The Bantay Tubig Network, in a statement, lambasted Malacanang for supposedly entering into a multibillion

deal with the Lopez family to save the distressed water utility and its likewise financially unstable parent, Benpres Holdings Corp.

It claimed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo agreed to save the distressed Maynilad and Benpres as a trade-off to convince Sen. Noli L. de Castro to become her running mate.

Noli a 'liar' then, an 'abortionist' now – ex wife Daily Tribune, March 3, 2004

A day after calling her former husband and now administration vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro a liar, Pacita "Baby" Torralba yesterday stepped up the word war this time calling him an "abortionist."

"De Castro is so wicked and shameless that he now wants to hide behind our child whom he tried hard to abort when he got me pregnant at age 16. He is a liar and an abortionist," Torralba said in a statement.

Noli not fit for VP Malaya, March 10, 2004 Column, Ducky Paredes

Bagong Lahing Pilipino Development Foundation (BLPDF) has filed with the Ombudsman a charge that in January 2002, they were approached by the Kabayan Foundation, headed and founded by Sen. Noli de Castro.

The offer, perhaps more of an ultimatum, was for BLPDF's membership (said to be in the millions) to join the Kabayan Foundation. In exchange, for the measly sum of P3.5 million, BLPDF would be featured in the television program "Magandang Gabi Bayan" in a positive light.

On alleged extortion activities of broadcaster Palace asked to probe de Castro Today, March 11, 2004

Noli de Castro's widely reported extortion activities should be investigated by Malacanang instead of being swept under the rug through pronouncements by President Arroyo's spokesman, Michael Defensor.

Maynilad bailout hit Philippine Daily Inquirer, March 20, 2004

Government's reported takeover of the debt-saddled Maynilad Water Services was a "midnight bailout" of Benpres Holdings, majority owner of the water utility controlled by the influential Lopez family, former Congressman Herminio Aquino said yesterday.

The alleged bailout could be part of a deal between President Macapagal Arroyo and the Lopez family in exchange for popular broadcaster Sen. Noli de Castro's joining the administration ticket as the President's running mate, Aquino said.

Another victim charged de Castro Malaya, March 25, 2004

A former actor-businessman, yesterday vowed to spend the rest of his days seeking to place vice presidential candidate Sen. Noli de Castro behind bars for allegedly causing his imprisonment for almost eight years.

3 "Bagman" ni Noli kinilala na Imbestigador, March 29, 2004

Pinangalanan ni Rafael Engle ang tatlong staff ng Magandang Gabi Bayan na kasama ng kanilang boss na si Noli de Castro na nangotong sa kanya ng P2 milyon noong 1995 kapalit ng "maganda at paborableng" report sa pagkawala ng kanyang asawa.

Noli's ex-wife: He's unfit to be VP Manila Standard, March 30, 2004

Tagbilaran City – I don't want Noli de Castro to win because he is a liar. Pacita Torralba, 59, who claims to be the first wife of de Castro, came out in the open yesterday, to campaign against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's running mate. "He is not worth it. He's a liar and he is not a good supporter of our daughter," Torralba said.

He threw me out for his lover, says Noli's ex-wife Daily Tribune, April 1, 2004

The former wife of administration vice presidential candidate Noli de Castro yesterday said he threw her out of their conjugal home in order for his illicit relationship then with a fellow employee at the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN radio and television network could go on without her nagging him about it.

"I never abandoned our home as Noli claimed. He literally dragged me out of our home and sent me home to Bohol so his shameless affair (with Arlene Sinsuat) could go on unhampered," Pacita "Baby" Torralba, the first wife of de Castro, yesterday said in a statement.

Ikaw ang kandidato sa pagka-pangalawang pangulo. Kung tunay kang lalaki, dapat mong ipaliwanag ang mga anomalya laban sa iyo.

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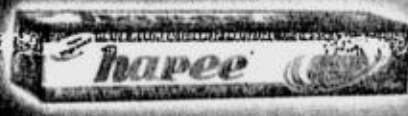
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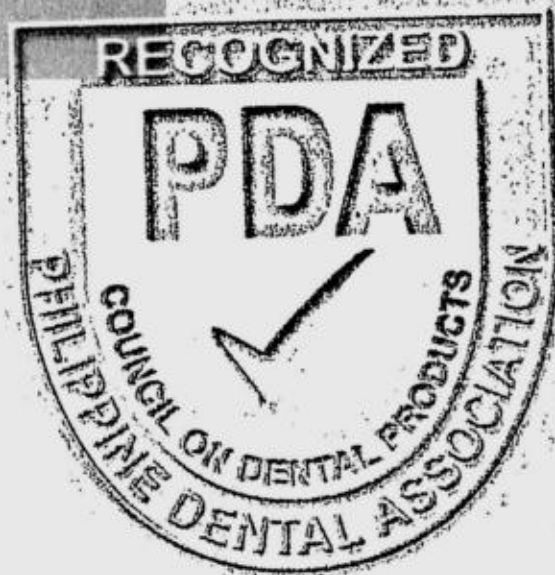


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We are happy to welcome Lamoian Corp., manufacturer of Hapee Toothpaste, as one of our partners during the PDA 96th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting which will be held from May 1-6, 2004 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

We think the management of Hapee Toothpaste for this joint partnership which will foster goodwill and mutual respect among the members of the profession.

We wish you all the best in all your endeavors.

DR. WALFRIDO P. CRUZ
President-Elect & General Chairman
96th Annual Convention & Scientific Meeting



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We dedicate this and other achievements to the Good Lord who has bestowed upon us countless blessings, and who has provided and guided Lamoian Corporation in fulfilling its mission "To make the difference for the glory of God"

To God be the glory!

CECILIO K. PEDRO
Chief Executive Officer
Lamoian Corporation



Shown from left Lamoian President, Mr. Cecilio K. Pedro accepting the PDA seal of recognition from PDA President Dr. Arsenio C. Donesa, Dr. Walfrido P. Cruz, and Mr. Anthony Ang, Marketing Services Group Manager of Lamoian Corporation.



PDA President-Elect & General Chairman Dr. Walfrido P. Cruz (seated from right) welcomes Mr. Cecilio K. Pedro of Lamoian Corporation for the joint partnership of the PDA 96th Annual Convention & Scientific Meeting. Also shown are officers of PDA and Lamoian Corporation.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
April 30, 2004	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Ingress Of Contractor (DANEX) Registration Kits Committee
May 01, 2004 (Saturday)	9:00 am - 5:00 pm 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 10:00 am - 12:00 pm 2:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Ingress of Trade Exhibitors Registration Parrs Fauchard Academy ICD Convocation
May 02, 2004 (Sunday)	8:00 am - 4:00 pm 8:00 am - 9:00 pm 9:00 am - 11:30 am 11:30 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm 6:00 pm - 12:00 pm	Registration Holy Mass Opening Ceremony Formal opening of Trade Exhibits Health Screening Scientific Sessions Fellowship Night
May 03, 2004 (Monday)	8:00 am - 4:00 pm 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 9:00 am - 5:00 pm 9:00 am - 6:00 pm 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 8:00 am - 10:00 am 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 7:00 pm - 12:00 pm	Registration Scientific Sessions Presidents' Dialogue Trade Exhibits Health Screening Deans Meeting Alumni Homecoming PDA Candidates Forum House of Delegates (1st Session)
May 04, 2004 (Tuesday)	8:00 am - 4:00 pm 8:00 am - 3:00 pm 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 9:00 am - 6:00 pm 7:00 pm - 12:00 pm	Registration Election of PDA Officers Scientific Sessions Health Screening Trade Exhibits Awards Night
May 05, 2004 (Wednesday)	8:00 am - 4:00 pm 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 9:00 am - 6:00 pm 5:00 pm - 12:00 pm	Registration Health Screening House of Delegates (2nd Session) Scientific Sessions Trade Exhibits Presidents Night
May 06, 2004 (Thursday)	8:00 am - 12:00 pm 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 9:00 am - 6:00 pm 6:00 pm - 12:00 pm	Registration Scientific Sessions Trade Exhibits Appreciation Night

Pope urges Filipinos to vote for honest officials

From page A1

will lead to a stronger nation, truly based on equity and justice for all," he said.

The Supreme Pontiff said he believed the Philippines would play a big role in the evangelization of the region. He has seen for himself the Filipinos' desire to fulfill their role as the "light" of Asia during the World Youth Day in Manila in 1995, when he celebrated the biggest Mass on record. This was his second time to visit the Philippines in his 25 years as pope. The first was in 1981 for the canonization of the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz.

The head of the Vatican state and the Roman Catholic Church said that he considered the World Youth Day in Manila "a moment of particular joy in (his) ministry to the universal Church."

"Being a country which has kept the Christian faith strong even when faced with extreme obstacles offers you the honorable task not only of preserving the values of this heritage but also of helping spread the ideals of the Christian culture to the whole world," the Pope said.

He, however, lamented that the Philippines, along with many Asian nations, continue to suffer from "extreme poverty," which has driven many young people to commit crimes for material gain or join radical movements that promise social change through violent means.

This predicament, he warned, could tempt governments to adopt "short-sighted solutions" that do not truly benefit the people. He urged the Philippines not only to assist the poor but to involve them in finding lasting solutions to poverty.

The Pope also expressed concern over the seemingly endless spate of violence that has taken a "devastating toll" on the country, saying this has affected many innocent lives.

"I again appeal to all parties to end the terrorism which continues to cause so much suffering to the civilian population and to embrace the path of dialogue," he said.

The Pope asked Vera to convey to President Macapagal-Arroyo, a devout Catholic, that he is praying for the Philippines.

Vera, a businesswoman and lay leader, was sworn in as Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See on March 26. Endorsed by retired Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, she replaced Ambassador Francisco Alba, who retired on Nov. 23.

In 1994 and 1998, she was named by the Pope Dame of the prestigious Pontifical Orders of St. Sylvester and of St. Gregory.

Before her appointment, Vera worked for the United Nations Development Fund for Women and several religious organizations, including Caritas Manila, Council of Laity of Manila, Children Rosary Movement, Philippine Foundation for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and the Paraclete Foundation.

She was Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) director and secretary in 1977-1978 and 1979-1980.

An accounting graduate from the University of Sto. Tomas, she was president and board chair of the FBS Radio Network Inc. and of Lever Properties Corp.

Vera was also involved as finance committee member and organizer in various projects of the Catholic Church such as the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila in January 2003, the 1995 papal visit, the 5th National Eucharistic Congress in 1997, Festival of Conference on God the Father in 1999, the Marian Congress on the Holy Trinity in 2000, and the Jammin' Jubilee Concert of the Archdiocese of Manila in 1997.

Born in Guagua, Pampanga, she is married to Luis Vera. They have four children.



THE NEW Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Leonida Vera, sitting at left, and members of her delegation pose with Pope John Paul II after presenting her credentials at the Vatican on Monday.



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METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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Palace accused of playing two hands in Pasig

By Luige del Puerto

IS MALACAÑANG supporting two congressional candidates in Pasig City? The camp of Robert "Dodot" Jaworski thinks so.

Jaworski, the official candidate of the Lakas-Christian and Muslim Democrats, claimed that the camp of lawyer Roman Romulo, an independent candidate, has been able to get support from the Palace.

According to Jaworski, Romulo's camp allegedly managed to obtain 30,000 PhilHealth cards through his father, Exec. Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Connections

"Obviously, *kahit papano e ginagamit nila ang koneksyon nila sa Malacañang* (They are somehow using their connection in Malacañang)," he said in a phone interview, adding he was dismayed when he learned about it.

"Ang akala ko, ako ang kandidato ng Pangulo dito sa Pasig City. Kaya kung may mga programa ang Pangulo, idadaan nila ito sa akin (I thought I was the President's bet in Pasig City, so if she had programs here, she would course them through me)," he said.

In an interview, Romulo said he had never distributed any PhilHealth cards.

Romulo support

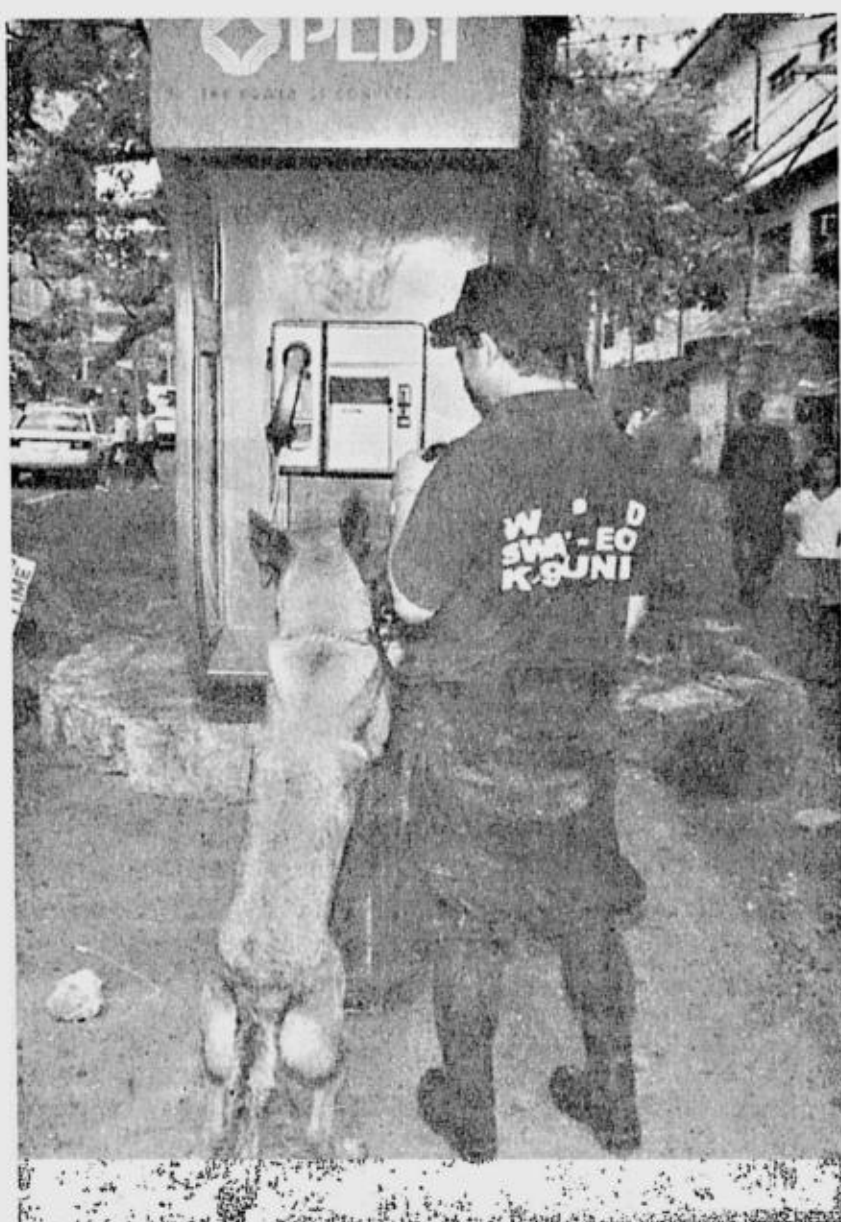
"I support the programs of the administration, including the PhilHealth card," he said. "But personally, I did not distribute any PhilHealth cards."

Romulo also maintained he has not received any form of help from Malacañang.

"Even moral support, there is none," he told the INQUIRER.

He said other than the executive secretary's support, no one in Lakas-CMD or Malacañang was helping his campaign. Romulo added that Jaworski, son of Sen. Robert Jaworski Sr., was just dragging his father into the controversy.

Permit for FPJ rally denied



PHONE PALS

A bomb sniffing dog and its handler check out a phone booth on Kalaw Street, Manila, as the Western Police District continues its anti-terror activities.

FIDEL PEREN/BANDERA

By Tarra Quismundo

THE NEXT stop of the campaign trail for the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino slate was supposed to be in Bustillos, an area near the university belt in Sampaloc, Manila.

But, according to former Manila mayor Mel Lopez, the City Hall denied them a permit to hold their campaign in the area.

'Right violation'

"This is a violation of our constitutional rights to assembly and mobility. But we will push through with or without a permit," Lopez stressed yesterday.

Lopez is seeking to regain the seat of mayor, which he served as a presidential appointee from 1988 to 1992.

Lopez said the KNP rally was scheduled at 6 p.m. last night and party standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., KNP senatorial bets and local candidates, were expected to attend.

But, said Lopez, City Hall would not let them.

No coordination

City Hall, however, explained that it denied the permit because the KNP failed to coordinate the sortie.

"They only filed their application at the bureau of permits today," said Armand Sebastian, spokesperson of Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr.

Based on procedure, applications for permits for rallies and campaign programs should be submitted to City

Hall's permits bureau five days before the event.

The time allowance is required to give the city's police force and traffic enforcers a chance to prepare the traffic and security plans for the event.

Bustillos links busy Legarda Street with España.

'Not fair'

Poe decried the refusal of City Hall to issue a permit for the rally.

"Dapat ay patas lang sa labanang ito (This should be a fair fight)," he told reporters before speaking to Filipino-Chinese businessmen in Binondo.

He accused Atienza, a known supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, of harassing the KNP and the Filipino people for not allowing the rally.

The Western Police District Station 4 allowed the KNP to push through with their sortie but stopped organizers from building a stage on site.

Everybody welcome

Before the sortie, Supt. Manolo Martinez, Station 4 director, said the rallyists could use a truck for a stage.

He said that he deployed 70 lawmen to keep watch of the program.

Martinez explained that the police do not intend to disperse the campaign, and police presence is only meant to ensure peace and order.

Atienza, had said that "everybody is welcome" to hold campaign sorties in the city, so long as City Hall is informed about it first.

Trains kill two more in 4 days

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR days after a travel show pioneer was killed by a train of the Philippine National Railways, two more persons were hit by two other trains in Manila and Taguig.

House helper Josephine Labiano, 48, was out on an errand when she was run over by a train in Sta. Mesa, Manila, at 8:20 a.m. yesterday.

Inspector Felix Usi Jr. said the victim, who had been in Manila for only a month working for businesswoman Susan Bardiola, was on her way to the market and had to cross the railroad tracks under the Ramon Mag-saysay Bridge.

Usi said Labiano tried to avoid the train (body number 303) by leaning away but was still hit by the locomotive driven by Carding Flores.

Dragged

The woman was swept under the train and was dragged for about 30 meters. Labiano's limbs were severed and she was declared dead on the spot.

At 9:20 a.m., Lorenzo Ignacio of Labrador Street, Cabrera, Pasay City, was leaving a friend's house that stood beside the southbound tracks in Western Bicutan, Taguig, when the train with body number 505 side-swiped him.

Ignacio suffered a crushed skull.

On Sunday, travel show pioneer Carlos Abrera was buying plants from a nursery in Taguig when he was hit by a passing train. Abrera was the husband of McCann-Erickson chair Emily Abrera.

All the trains involved in the accidents were coming from Manila and headed toward Alabang.

With Niel Lim

New MMDA certificates out

By Margaux Ortiz

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority officials yesterday informed motorists that a new format of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) exemption certificate had already been issued since April 1 as it urged them to renew their certificates immediately.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said that legitimate users of the

UVVRP exemption certificates should return the old certificates so that they could be issued new ones.

"Previous exemptions shall be confiscated," Lacuna stressed.

Lacuna said that they decided to change the format of the certificates because of the proliferation of fake documents sold by unscrupulous MMDA personnel.

The MMDA official said the fake certificates were sold for P3,500, unlike the genuine ones which could be availed of for only P100 from the agency.

Lacuna said the agency was issuing UVVRP exemption certificates to doctors, handicapped persons and traders carrying perishable and inflammable goods, and others who had legitimate reasons for exemption.

One group eyed in attacks

By Christian Esguerra and Volt Contreras

SAME styles. Same guns. Same goons?

The attack Sunday on Philipinas Shell's headquarters in Makati drew curious similarities to two previous incidents, boosting police's suspicion that communist guerrillas were behind all of them.

Rifle grenades

Attackers used rifle grenades fired from a launcher attached to an M-16 in shooting at the Shell building first in December 1999 and later last Sunday, said Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, Philippine National Police spokesperson.

The same firearm was used in a similar attack at the Department of Energy

building in 2000, he said. In all three incidents, Goltiao said the executions were all the same: gunmen on board vehicles firing by the buildings.

Similarities

"We're not saying that the New People's Army was actually behind all the incidents," he told reporters. "But there are many similarities that are hard to ignore."

In the first Shell House attack, the suspects were members of the NPA's urban hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade, led by a certain Oscar Severino, head of ABB's northern command, according to the official.

The Department of Energy incident was said to have been carried out by alleged ABB member

Joel Castillo alias Virgilio Roxas.

No suspect was arrested in any of the incidents, making it more difficult for the PNP to easily tag the NPA in the latest attack.

NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has denied that communist rebels were behind the attack.

ABB denial

Yesterday, Carapali Lualhati, reportedly the national commander of the ABB in the country, also denied his group's role in the Shell attack.

"We have nothing to do with it," he said, adding that they would admit to the attack had they done it.

He pointed out that they were abiding by a truce with the government.

Killer of hospital chaplain meted out life term

By Tina Santos

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court has sentenced to life in prison a man accused of killing the chaplain of the Capitol Medical Center five years ago.

In a 14-page decision, Judge Maria Theresa Yadao of the QC RTC Branch 81 also ordered Andres Almagno, 40, of Kabisan Street, Batasan Hills, Que-

zon City, to pay complainant Monica Palafox-Eismendi, relative of victim Fr. Loreto Madama Palafox, a total of P100,000 as death indemnity and moral damages.

The accused, who worked as housekeeping supervisor at the hospital, was also ordered to return the Rolex gold-plated wristwatch and the P500 he took from Palafox before

he brutally killed the priest inside the latter's office-cum-quarters at the hospital's main building on the night of Nov. 12, 1999.

Witness Jaime Rosello, a housekeeping aide, testified that prior to the discovery of the body of the sexagenarian priest, he found the chaplain's office in total disarray.

The priest was seen slumped in bed, pinned un-

der an oxygen tank, which was also used to hit him, according to court records.

The accused was pinpointed by security officer Januario Gonzales as the last person to be seen near the vicinity of the chaplain's office.

Gonzales said he saw Almagno walking down from the eighth floor, "acting suspiciously." Almagno even tried to avoid the guard.

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METROBRIEFS



Award for Unilab

THE DEPARTMENT of Health recently awarded the Unilab Medical Education and Development (UMED) and its collaborator Health First for adopting and implementing the Directly Observed Treatment System strategy in containing tuberculosis. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit is shown presenting a citation to Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, UMED executive director, and Rhais Gamboa, Health First vice president and general manager, during ceremonies marking World TB Day at the GSIS Theater.

Retrouvaille

COUPLES in troubled marriages can attend a Retrouvaille weekend on May 14-16 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Barangay San Jose Tagaytay City. Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery) aims to help heal and renew troubled marriages. For details, call Fr. David Clay at 523-3361 or (0918)902-0511. Tom and Ruby at 931-8413 and 932-3750 or (0918)923-2973, and Nes and Inday Sitaca at 938-9719.



Total support

TOTAL Merville, the 63rd service station of TOTL Corp., has pledged support to Barangay Moonwalk through employment opportunities for residents and providing quality service in fuel, car care and grocery needs. Photo shows retailer Kathy Santiago (2nd from right) calling on Moonwalk Barangay Captain Clemente Advincula (2nd from left). At extreme left is Efren Sugue, TOTAL retail network developer and Becca de la Vega, TOTAL Merville consultant.

Perilla Sr.; 70

FELICIANO P. Perilla, Sr., former planning officer at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region IV, passed away on April 15. He was 70. Perilla, Sr., is survived by his wife, Norma, children Authom and Malou, Jess and Joy, Felinor and Boyet, Romy and Naomi, Jiji and Len, Bong and Miriam, and Pip and Joie, and 14 grandchildren. His body lies in state at the Perilla residence on Property corner Medical Sts., Project 8, QC. Internment is on Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino in Tandang Sora after an 8 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church in GSIS Village, Q.C.

Tanong
Ing Bayan

Pasa-sa-asawa ang pulitika sa Camanava: Abuso na ba?

Usò na 'ata sa buong Camanava: Kapwa kandidato ang mag-asawa, ang lalaki sa Kongreso, ang babae bilang alkalde. Sa Calocan, si Mayor Rey Malonzo at Gigi Malonzo. Sa Malabon-Navotas, si Rep. Ricky Sandoval at Jeannie Sandoval. Sa Valenzuela, si Mayor Bobbit Carlos at si Rita Carlos. Ayos ba? O pang-aabuso na? Mamayang alas-10 ng gabi, sa ABC. (May replay bukas, alas-8 ng umaga.)

ABC

Cops' slow response probed

By Tina Santos

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office Director Ricardo de Leon yesterday ordered an investigation on the slow response of the operatives of the Central Police District to last Monday's Asiatrust Bank robbery, saying the bank was just a stone's throw away from a police community precinct of the station.

De Leon tasked CPD director Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro to launch an inquiry into why the police operatives, particularly those assigned to the CPD-Galas Station headed by Supt. Renato Valebia, took so long to respond to the incident.

"There are obvious lapses in operational procedures committed by the station's personnel. We cannot allow our cops to stand idly by while criminals run rampant in the area of responsibility," De Leon said.

He added that a sin of omission of such magnitude is worse than actually committing a crime against civilians when a cop is in the actual position to act.

"Civilians rely on us to protect them and their property. When police officers fail to deliver on this commitment, something is wrong," he said.

The NCRPO chief warned that should the inquiry find that members of the police sta-

tion had been remiss in doing their duty, they—including Valebia—will be sanctioned.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Valebia for comment but was told he was out of the office.

On Monday, five armed suspects, including a woman, robbed the Asiatrust Bank on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Barangay Mariana.

The suspects disarmed the security guard and announced the heist.

The robbers ordered bank clients and employees to lie face down on the ground as they ransacked the tellers, booths and counters for cash. After getting the cash, they flagged a Cubao-bound passenger jeepney and fled.

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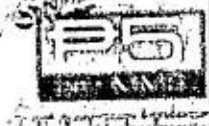
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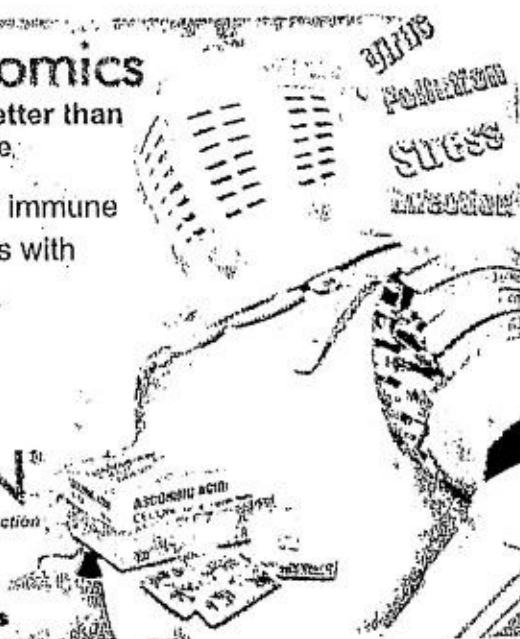
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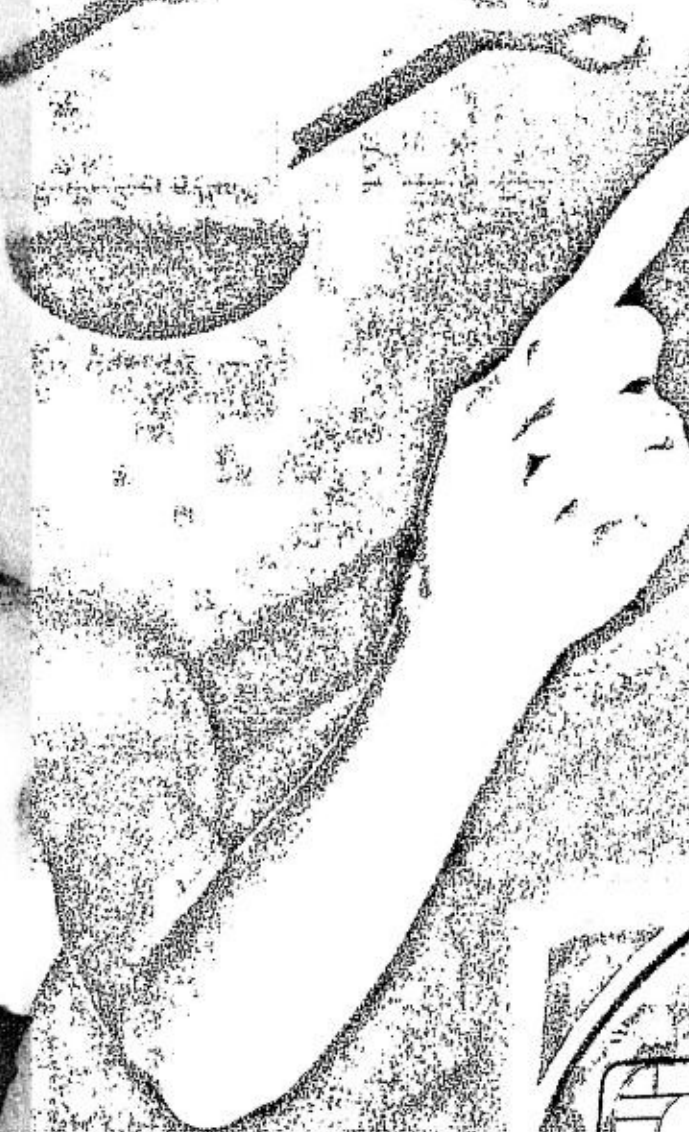
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Games-Celtics vs Knicks,
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Semifinals; 7:30 a.m.; So-
lar Sports—New York
knocks off Boston, 118-113, to tie the series at 2-2. Knicks
forward Bernard King leads all-scorers with 43 points.
NBA Playoffs 2004-Mavs vs Kings; 10:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.);
Solar Sports—Dallas and Sacramento continue their
high-octane series in the West.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A25

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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SPORTS

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Domingo ties for 2nd overall

By Marc Anthony Reyes

OLONGAPO CITY—Enrique Domingo used his sprinting expertise to the hilt to rule the sixth stage yesterday even as Frederick Feliciano stubbornly hung on to the Air21 Tour Pilipinas yellow jersey.

Domingo, team captain of the Postmen, nipped teammates Lloyd Reynante and Joseph Millanes as they showed the way for a six-man lead pack that timed three hours 55 minutes and 35 seconds for the 156-km drive from Quezon City.

Feliciano arrived with the 18-man main pack that checked in 3 minutes 42 seconds behind the group of Domingo, who thought he had wrested the overall lead.

But when the official results came, the 26-year-old Patrol 117 rider found his precarious seven-second lead still intact although Domingo was able to catch up with Eboy Quinones, the Southeast Asian Games mountain bike medalist last year, for second overall.

"It was just luck," said the 34-year-old Domingo, a three-time Tour sprints champion whose best finish in the bikathon was 4th place in 1996. "I was only trying to help

my team get into better position; the prize is higher in the team event."

Domingo finished just a wheel ahead of Reynante and Millanes, who were closely trailed by Dole rookie Orly Villanueva, Joel Calderon of Beer na Beer and VAT Rider rookie Baler Ravina.

With the 1-2-3 lap finish, Domingo's Postmen opened up a lead of 20 minutes 42 seconds over Dole in the race for the P1 million top team prize. Beer na Beer held third, 20:55 behind.

Feliciano, who bucked a flat tire in Apalit, Pampanga, came home along with Quiñones, Mercurio Ramos (5th overall) and Rhyann Tanguilig (6th overall).

Domingo, winner of at least 10 stages since joining the Tour in 1988, complained about the traffic gridlock entering Pampanga which forced the then 10-man lead pack to stop three times.



DOMINGO outkicks Postmen teammate Reynante in the Olongapo City finish.

A San Carlos City, Pangasinan native, Domingo has won this stage before, including last year when he placed sixth overall. He is also gunning for his fourth Sprint King award after winning it in 1997, 1998 and 2003.

"This is my favorite stage," said



ROMY HOMILLADA

Domingo, who is also favored to take today's seventh stage, a 247-km grind ending in Dagupan City.

Tanday rookie Julie Panong became the Tour's second casualty when he abandoned the race due to exhaustion in Tungkong Manga in San Jose del Monte.

Tour doctor Rizaldy Bulatao said Panong showed signs of exhaustion but otherwise was in good condition.

This year's Tour is also sponsored by Pharex, Summit Mineral Water, Red Bull, Gatorade, Isuzu and Lactovital.

STAGE 6 RESULTS

1. E. Domingo (Postmen) 3 hrs 55 mins 35 secs;
2. L. Reynante (Postmen) 3. O. Villanueva (Dole) 4. B. Ravina (Vat Riders) 5. J. Millanes (Postmen) 6. J. Calderon (Beer na Beer) same time
7. V. Baluyot (Samsung) 1:29 mins behind; 8. F. Alagano (Dole) 9. R. Villaver (Metro Drug) 10. D. Marana (Marsman Drysdale) same time
11. D. Ganigan (Vat Riders) 3:17 mins; 12. J. Tolentino (Dole) same time
13. C. Felix (Vat Riders) 3:22 mins; 14. V. Espiritu (Beer na Beer) 15. R. Navarro (Tanday Riders) 13:39
16. R. Hualda (Purefoods) 17. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) 18. R. Tanguilig (PLDT) same time

STAGE 6 OVERALL

11. S. Barnachea 8:14 mins behind
12. V. Baluyot (Samsung) 10:14 mins
13. J. Millanes (Postmen) 10:23
14. G. Apolinar (Postmen) 11:10
15. P. Manapul (Marsman) 12:27
16. C. Jazul (Beer na Beer) 12:28
17. W. Davadilla (Purefoods) 13:10
18. C. Felix (Vat Riders) 13:16
19. R. Navarro (Tanday Riders) 13:39
20. V. Espiritu (Beer na Beer) 14:03

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Postmen 72:23.29 841 hrs
2. Dole 20:42 mins behind
3. Beer na Beer 20:55 mins behind
4. Samsung 24:22 mins behind
5. Purefoods 25:50 mins behind
6. Metro Drug 29:18 mins behind
7. PLDT 31:47 mins behind
8. Mail and More 33:49 mins behind
9. Marsman Drysdale 34:24 mins behind
10. Patrol 117 42:19 mins behind
11. Vat Riders 43:35 mins behind
12. Tanday Riders 51:30 mins behind

Duremdes back for in-form SLR

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	9	1
Alaska	7	3
Coca-Cola	7	4
Red Bull	6	4
Talk 'N Text	6	5
Shell	4	6
FedEx	3	7
Ginebra	3	7
Purefoods	3	7
Sta. Lucia	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Sta. Lucia
7:10 p.m.—Shell vs. San Miguel Beer

STA. LUCIA Realty reactivates former Most Valuable Player Kenneth Duremdes today as the Realtors try to climb out the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference cellar when they battle struggling Purefoods at the Araneta Coliseum.

Duremdes returns after a five-game absence because of a leg injury, bolstering the Realtors' stock as they seek a third straight victory over the Tender Juicy Hotdogs in the 4:45 p.m. contest.

And while Sta. Lucia will be welcoming Duremdes, Purefoods put one of its own in the injured list. Jun Limpot has been hobbled by a leg injury and will be replaced by Eddie Laure.

San Miguel Beer tries to pull further away from the pack when it clashes with a reinvigorated Shell side in the 7:10 p.m. mainer.

Sta. Lucia opened with five defeats and has languished at the cellar since then.

Softball sweep by Bacolod

TANAUAN CITY—The New Bacolod Senior softball team, powered by members of the squad that won the World Series in Kirkland, US, last year, scored an 8-1 win over ILLAM yesterday to capture the Senior League (15-16) crown of the 2004 Baseball/Softball Philippine Series at the Tanauan field here.

The win completed a Bacolod sweep of all softball crowns in the event following earlier wins in the Little League (11-12), Junior League (13-14) and Big League (17-18).

In Little League baseball, Batangan outslugged Marist, 13-1, and advanced to the semifinals against ILLAM which downed Bulacan, 11-8.

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SPORTS

Blu spoils Go sendoff

GAMES TOMORROW (Paseo Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Sunlist-UST vs Viva-FEU
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Hapea

BLU STAR denied Montaña Pawnshop coach Bong Go a winning exit yesterday as the Detergent Kings finally barged into the win column after five games with a 72-69 decision in the PBL Unity Cup at the Paseo Sports Center.

The Jewels came out ready to give Go a fitting sendoff after announcing he was quitting for health reasons but it was the Detergent Kings who played better and smarter down the stretch.

Viva Mineral Water-FEU grabbed solo second place at 4-1 by pinning a fourth straight defeat on Lee Pipes-Ateneo, 89-76.

The scores:

First Game
BLU STAR 72—Dela Cuesta 23, Mesina 13, Tagupa 8, Villamin 8, Victoria 6, Gamboa 6, Santos 4, Almad 2, Canalete 2, Almada 0.

MONTAÑA 69—Magpayo 24, Salvador 13, Junio 11, Espiritu 6, Vergara 5, Tolentino 4, Buenafe 2, Guerrero 2, Baluyot 2, Najorda 0, Ilanga 0.

Second Game

VIVA 89—Santos 17, Islip 17, Miranda 13, Misolas 12, Ybanez 9, Raneses 6, Garcia 4, Rizada 4, Co 4, Yabut 0, Sison 0, Santiago 0.

LEE PIPES-ATENEO 76—Fonacier 20, Membrera 12, Intal 12, Bugia 9, Tenorio 7, Domingo 4, Del Rosario 4, Gelig 4, Manalo 3, Escalona 1.



NINO Canalete of Blu Star tries to figure a way out of a tight Montaña defense.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Fencers miss Olympic marks

By Trina Ibarle

FOILED!

Wally Mendoza, Emerson Segui and Veena Nuestro came out empty-handed in their quest for an Olympic stint at the close of the 2004 Sharp Asia-Oceania Olympic fencing qualifier yesterday at the Philsports Arena.

Mendoza, a gold medal winner in the 2001 and 2003 Southeast Asian Games, only managed fourth in the men's sabre after taking a heartbreaking 15-14 loss to world-ranked Eugunev Frolov of Kazakhstan in the semifinals.

Segui came back from a 10-6 deficit only to

absorb a 15-12 loss to Hong Kong's Kwok Kin Lau, who won the Olympic slot in the men's foil after a 15-1 rout of Kuwait's Abdelmohsen Shahrayen in the finals.

Segui's first loss to Lau in their personal rivalry was all the more painful because the Filipino seemed on the verge of victory after posting a 12-11 lead.

Nuestro went down, 15-2, to New Zealand's Sarah Raudkivi in the quarterfinals of the women's foil.

Blowing their Olympic bids earlier Monday were Armand Bernal (men's epee), Joanna Franquelli (women's sabre) and Harlene Orendain (women's epee).

Rotary golf starts today at Midlands

ROTARY Club of Quezon City defends its World Golf Fellowship Invitational title today as the 13th edition of the annual event tees off at the scenic Midlands course in Tagaytay.

At least 10 other teams are expected to take part in the 18-hole event organized by the Rotary Club of Greenmeadows in cooperation with The Medical City's department of pediatrics.

Tee off time is from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The Invitational is principally sponsored by United Laboratories and co-sponsored by Fortune Tobacco. RC Greenmeadows president Michael Tong said other backers are Westmont, Wyeth, Porsche Jeans, Paradise Garden, Boracay, Commercial Motors, CATS Motors, Export and Industry Bank, PLDT and The Medical City.

Quinto Henson scores a knockout

ONE of the most corrupt, and obviously very inefficient, government agencies in the country is the GAB.

That's the least amusing (pun intended) because the Games and Amusements Board is directly under the Office of the President.

In fact, all GAB rules and regulations, including amendments, had to be reviewed and approved by the Executive Secretary to the President of the Philippines.

Which meant it was designed to be a very effective agency.

Unfortunately, just like the Philippine Sports Commission now headed by Eric Buhan, a favorite son-in-law of the influential defense secretary, the GAB has also become a favorite parking lot of political appointees.

Eduardo Villanueva of Bacolod, credentialed as a close friend of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, currently mismanages the GAB.

Yes, we dared use that sentence in the present tense because it was only yesterday afternoon that Mr. Villanueva, wide-eyed, had made an open vow to run his agency efficiently.

How soon he could effect changes, we could not effectively determine.

As of the start of office hours today, you can bet the GAB had yet to be managed properly.

Anyway, the great thing about Mr. Villanueva is that, in facing his critics, he had been very honest about everything.

Of course, he was also often honestly surprised when candidly told of the multiple forms of corruption in his office.

Told straight to his face over lunch that GAB employees and officials regularly act as boxing judges in high-paying international cards, mainly in Japan, Thailand and Korea, Villanueva promptly decreed that, henceforth, the

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malpractice would be stopped.

"No GAB employee or official can act as boxing judges abroad," Villanueva exclaimed.

Pardon this, but in making the declaration, Villanueva appeared like Rip Van Winkle, minus the beard and the tattered clothes, who had suddenly roused from years and years of slumber in a field of debris.

Listen. Villanueva jumping out of dreamland and waking up to ugly reality did not happen by chance.

It was caused by a big knockout punch, delivered by a hard-nosed,

meticulous columnist who threw the book, nay the lethal left hook, straight to the chin of the amiable if at times naïve GAB big boss.

For the record, there were other columnists, including your typist here, Ronnie Nathanielsz of Manila Standard and Dennis Principe of the Manila Bulletin, who never minced words in criticizing the GAB.

But it took a big KO blow, delivered by Joaquin Henson of the Star in a power-packed column last week, to knock sense into the GAB system, so to say.

Henson's column gallantly detailed the sickening corruption and inefficiency under the Villanueva tenure.

And it was both credible and lethal because Henson, being a member of the GAB boxing ratings committee, had had access to areas and details, both hidden and glaring, that have become open marketplaces for graft and incompetence in the government agency.

The lunch, hosted by lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, who had helped guide the GAB and RP boxing to their glory years under Jun Montano, turned into a no-holds-barred bout, with Villanueva humbly on the receiving end.

The poor guy was told that his agency had the teeth, in the form of rules, but was too dumb and gutless to bite.

He was told of the incompetence of his officials, judges, and even the medical staff.

He was told of ghost bouts in remote areas, whose dubious results were credited in the records of worthless boxers who would predictably end up being cursed as "dogs" abroad.

Summing it up, it could now be said that Manny Pacquiao managed to make it big despite the GAB and the wholesale misdeeds that dominated its sorry conduct of professional boxing hereabouts.

Punched hard, Villanueva rose from the floor and vowed reforms.

Top guns hold sway in Jungolf qualifier

MIGUEL Tabuena shot an eagle-aided four-under-par 68 yesterday to pull away by seven strokes in boys Class D even as AR Ramos and Princess Superal paced Class E in yesterday's opening round of the Callaway Junior World Qualifier, the third leg of the Samsung-DHL Jungolf Tour at the Sherwood Hills and Riviera Executive courses.

The 9-year-old Tabuena also had five birdies that more than made up for three bogeys at Sherwood as the multititled kid playing out of the International School zoomed past Bino dela Paz.

Ramos, carded a six-over 60 to lead Tonton Arevalo by one stroke and JR Gonzales by two in the division for boys aged 7-8 years.

Superal, one of three siblings campaigning in the Tour supported

chiefly by Samsung, DHL, Philippine Airlines and ICTSI, opened up a seven-shot lead over Felicia Medalla after scoring a 68.

Superal's brother Wolen (Class C) and sister Crystal (Class B) also led their respective divisions.

The first round scores:

Class A Girls: 73 R. Campang, 76 J. Agojo, 80 X. Dizon; Class B Girls: 78 C. Superal, 78 B. dela Paz, 78 D. de Villa, 84

Class C: Boys-W. Superal, 70, R. Sumabat, 81, C. Tinio, 82; Girls-79 C. Rodriguez, 80 M. Piccio, 85 R. de Guzman

Class D: Boys-68 M. Tabuena, B. dela Paz, 75, JP de Claro, 77; Girls-D. Ardina, 71, M. Legaspi, 74, K. dela Cruz, 83

Class E: Boys-60 AR Ramos, 61 T. Arevalo, 62 JR Gonzales; Girls-68 P. Superal, 75 F. Medalla, 88 D. Gonzales

Class F: Boys-64 R. Zaragosa, 66 J. Dy, 75 K. Kano; Girls-76 A. Arevalo, 80 J. Buen.

SPORTSWATCH

Juvin carries Aspac hopes in Bonnalack Cup

JUVIC Pagunsan hopes to play together a solid game against some of the best amateurs in Europe as he puts for the Asia-Pacific team in the Michael Bonnalack Cup, a Ryder Cup-style golf championship pitting the best of Asia against the cream of Europe beginning today at the Circolo Golf Roma Acquasanta course in Rome. Pagunsan's impressive Top 6 finish in last year's Nomura Cup in Australia netted him a berth in the 12-player Asia-Pacific squad. His stint in Rome is sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission and backed by Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Rod Feliciano, Benny Gopez, Mizuno and Canlubang. He is joined in the team by former US amateur champion Nick Flanagan of Australia and compatriot James Nittles, Harao Fujisima and Yuta Ikeda of Japan, Koreans Kyong-tae Kim and See-woo Sung, Mathew Holten and Brad Iles of New Zealand, Ben Leong of Malaysia and India's Shiv Kapur.

Bakbakan Open final round sizzles today

FIERCE battles are expected when the championship round of the Bakbakan Open National 8-Cock Derby unfolds today at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Four cockers remained unbeaten with five points each—Ucap president Raymond Velayo and Boy Diaz (Arnis Master April 13 and 15), Col. Andaya of Zamboanga (King Gerald John), Edwin Recio of Laguna (JU Hatawan sa Tag-ulan) and Marcel Julao (MTJ Brothers). Today's 64-fight program is sponsored by Vitarich Panabong, Asvet and Thunderbird Platinum. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P3 million. For inquiries, call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

LPC 3-cocker dangles P300,000 prize

MORE than 45 fights are on tap in another 3-cock derby tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 for an entry fee of P5,500, said hosts Alan and Julius Canumay. Participants may submit their entries today, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 873-1040 for details. The Agwin and Excalibur entries emerged as co-champions in last Wednesday's 3-cock event. Meanwhile, pit manager Alex Tobias said LPC's air-conditioned cockhouses are now open. Hacklights at LPC are held from Monday to Sunday.

Race 1—1. Arbitrator 2. Lucky Beat 3. Magical Jude 4. Real Gem	Race 6—1. Senior Presidente 2. Long Road 3. Ocean Wings 4. Cunning Eagle
Race 2—1. Armea's Hope 2. Half Moon Princess 3. Miraculous Star 4. Deputy Parade 5. Portal Dancer	Race 7—1. Kenkay 2. White Lighter 3. Dazzling Affair 4. Western Dancer 5. Secret Quest
Race 3—1. Heavy Metal 2. Shotgun Banjo 3. Ocean Menary 4. Be Ready 5. Caesar's Inn	Race 8—1. Air Force One 2. Dato's Pride 3. Uncle Buck 4. Rolex
Race 4—1. Trustee 2. Mitted Forever 3. Above the Rim 4. Red Hot 5. Mandalay Bay	Race 9—1. Space Crusader 2. Traktora 3. Danielle's Angel 4. Star Emblem 5. Habagat

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Lakers, Spurs win anew

LOS ANGELES—Shaquille O'Neal and Gary Payton had sub-par games, but the Houston Rockets had little success stopping Kobe Bryant and Karl Malone.

Bryant scored 36 points and Malone had 17 for the Lakers, who pulled away in the second half en route to a 98-84 victory on Monday over the Rockets and a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference first-round series.

"Everyone stayed focused," said Malone. "When Shaq picked up those fouls, everyone realized what they had to do. It was a team effort."

O'Neal had just two points and three fouls in the first half and finished with a playoff career-low seven points, while Gary Payton scored six. "I didn't really play in the important parts of



BRYANT: 36 points

the game," O'Neal said. "I was on the bench in foul trouble, but everyone else stepped up." The Lakers held a 66-62 edge before Malone made a jumper with 49 seconds left in the third quarter.

Bryant followed with a 3-pointer and, after a layup by Houston's Steve Francis, sank three freethrows following an ill-advised foul by Cuttino Mobley with two seconds to go, opening a 74-64 cushion.

Yao Ming had 21 points to pace the Rockets.

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Yao Ming had 21 points to pace the Rockets.

Jim Jackson added 19 points and Francis collected 18, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for a triple-double in his second career playoff game.

The Rockets, who will host Game Three of the best-of-seven series on Friday, struggled at the line, going just 19-of-30.

Former Laker Robert Horry had 14 points and 10 rebounds and made two 3-pointers to stop a big run late in the third quarter as the San Antonio Spurs defeated Memphis, 87-70, to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

Frenchman Tony Parker collected 27 points and seven assists and Tim Duncan added 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs, who held the Grizzlies without a basket for nearly 11 minutes in the fourth quarter. Game Three is Thursday in Memphis.

AFP

Junior PBA caging lures 500 MM kids

EVER heard of the Makati Junior Kings? Or the Malabon Junior Beermen? Or perhaps the Pasig Junior Realtors?

Not yet most likely, but expect to see and hear more about them as the Burlington Junior PBA summer basketball league sizzles at various PBA venues.

Last Sunday, elaborate opening rites at the Araneta Coliseum ushered in the league's first ever junior league, involving over 500 kids from Metro Manila cities and municipalities carrying the colors of the PBA's 10 member teams.

"This has been a long time coming for the PBA, to see youngsters—the league's most loyal fans and its future stars—in action on the league's own home floor," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

Aside from the three teams mentioned above, also seeing action are the Alaska Mandaluyong Junior Aces, FedEx San Juan Junior Express, Purefoods Taguig Junior Hotdogs, Coca-Cola Marikina Junior Tigers, Red Bull Pasay Junior Barako, Shell Manila Junior Turbo Chargers and the Talk 'N Text Quezon City Junior Phone Pals.

The rebirth of Jimwell Torion

THE 2004 PBA season is something of a rebirth for Jimwell Torion. After a most difficult time last year when he was suspended for drug abuse and banned for committing a hard foul that broke the nose of TNT's Jimmy Alapag, 28-year-old Torion of the Red Bull Barako is back in action.

Despite a five-month layoff, Torion, the highly fancied playmaker, did not show signs of slowing Sunday. Instead, he displayed his signature cat-quick movement, long-range shooting and, most of all, a total commitment to please the public.

Torion finished with 17 points to lift Red Bull past Talk 'N Text, 106-104, and give the Photokina franchise a respectable 6-4 win-loss record in the PBA Gran Matador Fiesta Conference. Red Bull next battles resurgent Shell this Saturday at the Makati Coliseum.

"I'm so excited to be back," said Torion, a 5-foot-8 prized find from Argao, Cebu. "Everybody contributed to the victory."

What worked for coach Yeng Guiao were the brilliant performances of his local players—tireless Davonn Harp, never-say-die Rico Villanueva, go-for-broke Torion, sweet-shooting Mick Pennisi, spirited Cyrus Baguio, Lordy Tugade and Junthy Valenzuela, and the hyperactive Topex Robinson. New import Cory Hightower scored only 12 points, but Guiao said he was optimistic this NBA veteran from North Carolina will play better in his succeeding games.

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Inigo

"Cory's a smart player. I know he can shoot the ball, but he just didn't make the shot tonight," Guiao said.

Torion came to Manila in the late 1990s and made his debut in the Philippine Basketball League. The son of a poor fisherman from Argao, he was tapped by Red Bull in its PBA debut in 2000.

But a few weeks before the start of the 2000 season, Torion figured in a career-threatening car accident early in the morning of Jan. 7. He survived the crash and underwent several operations. He admitted to drinking two bottles of beer during a party and was on his way home when his car was rammed by a truck at an Ermita intersection.

Torion rejoined the team after he sought forgiveness and understanding from the Red Bull team headed by franchise owner George Chua, coach Yeng Guiao, team manager Tony Chua and Andy Jao of the coaching staff. Management understood and ultimately forgave Torion for his misconduct.

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JOHNNIE WALKER

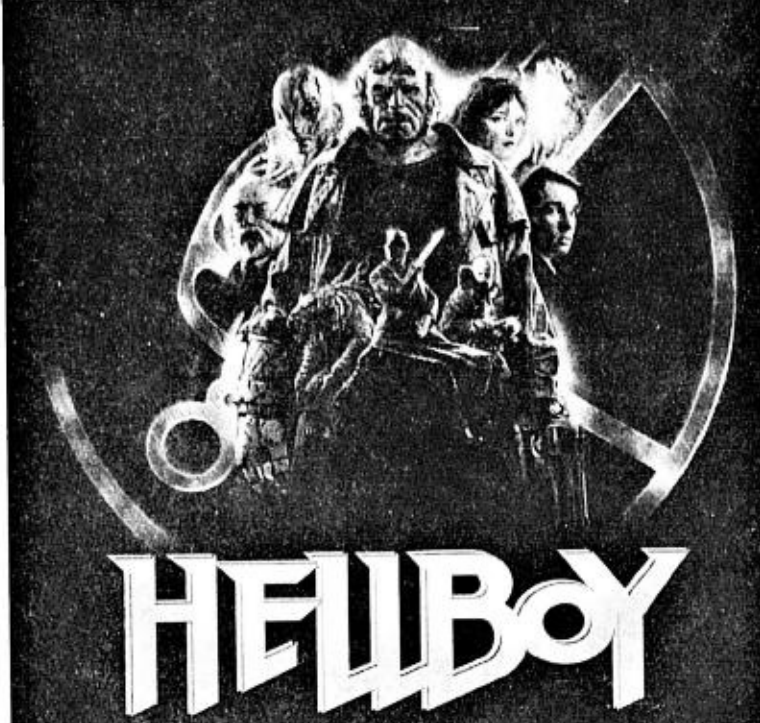
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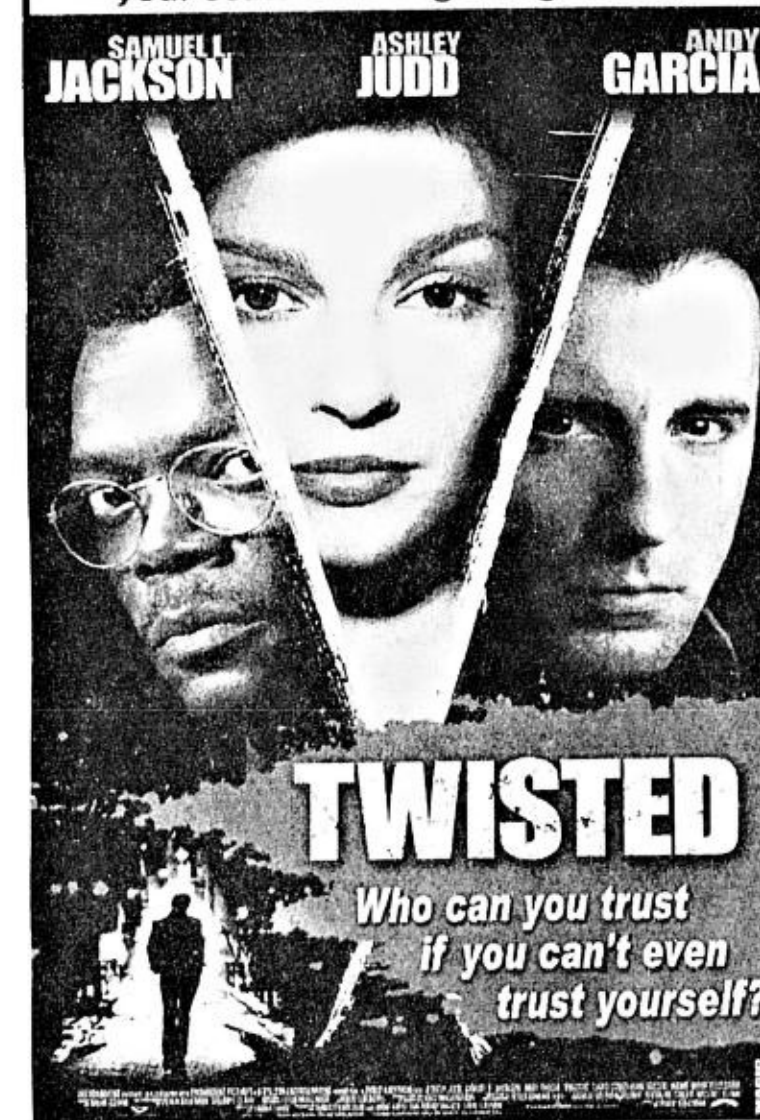
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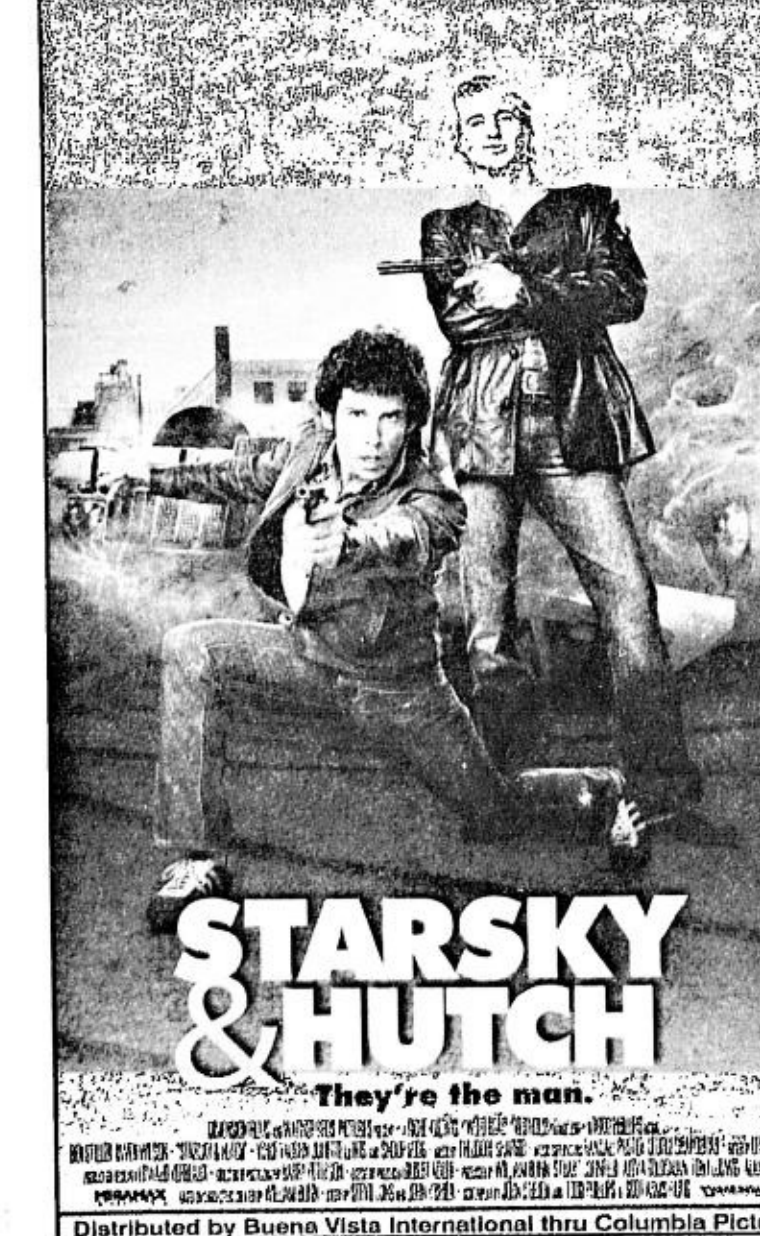
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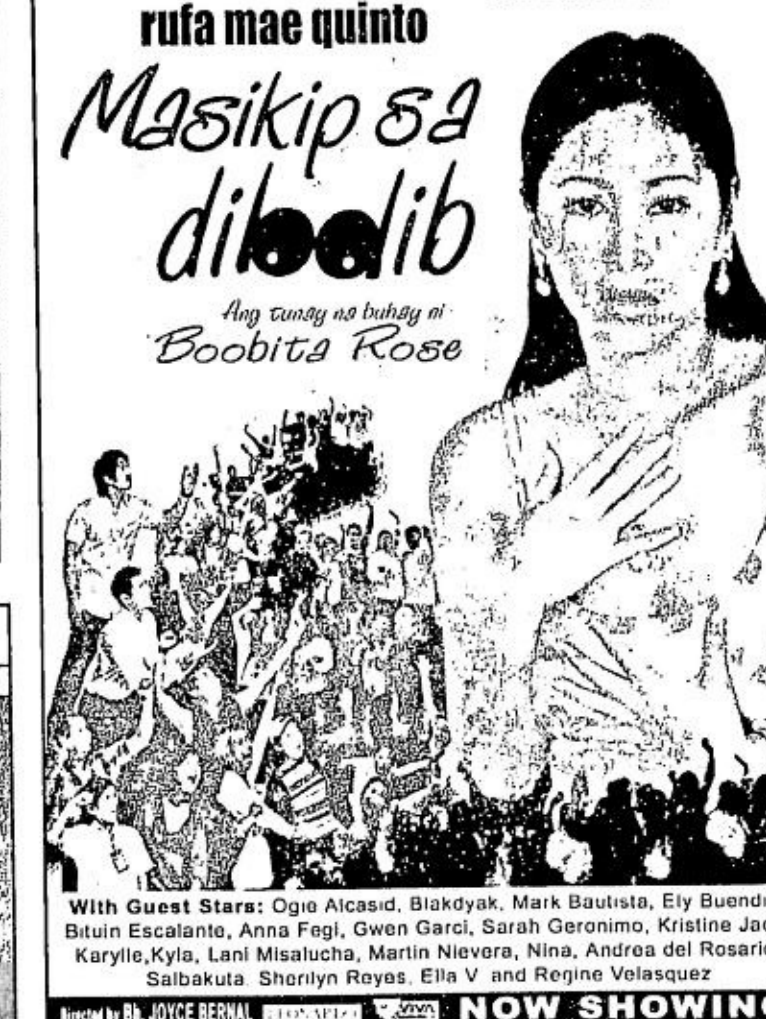
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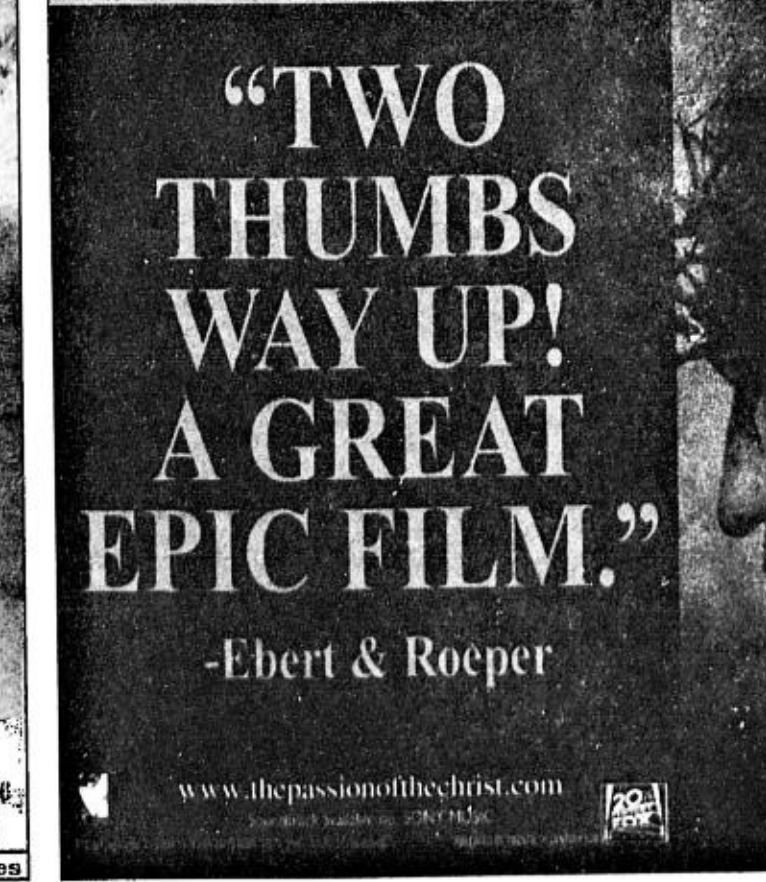
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MTRCB RATING: PG 13 PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG KIDS BELOW 13 YEARS BECAUSE OF SOME SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS THEIR SENSIBILITIES



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has been discussing with other world leaders the possibility of opening new markets for Philippine films.

This is according to movie producer Vic del Rosario, who is a frequent companion of Ms Macapagal during her travels abroad for official functions.

Del Rosario, chief executive officer of Viva Entertainment Group, said the President always includes a representative from the movie industry in her entourage.

"It was the President herself who requested producers like me to accompany her," said Del Rosario. "It shows her enthusiasm for promoting Filipino movies in the countries she visits."

Del Rosario was with Ms Macapagal in her state visit to Indonesia last year where Del Rosario had the chance to touch base with top Indonesian movie and TV producers and video company executives.

"We discussed possibilities of strengthening the distribution

network in Indonesia for Tagalog films and videos. The talks were fruitful. And President Macapagal made it happen," Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario has also joined the President in trips to Japan, Malaysia and other Asian countries where the film industry is a thriving business.

Filipino films used to be a dominant influence in the Asian region. But the higher technology used to make movies in Hong Kong, Malaysia, and more recently China, has edged out the Philippines from the Asian market.

An avid Tagalog movie fan, Ms Macapagal has revitalized the local movie industry and re-established its hold on Asian cinema.

But she admits that there is still a lot to be done.

In the last two years, Ms Macapagal has intensified the crackdown on video piracy, established the Cinema Evaluation Board and reduced the amusement tax that has long burdened the film community.

Rufa Mae scores first success as film producer

UNLIKE her screen image, Rufa Mae Quinto has proven that she's no air head.

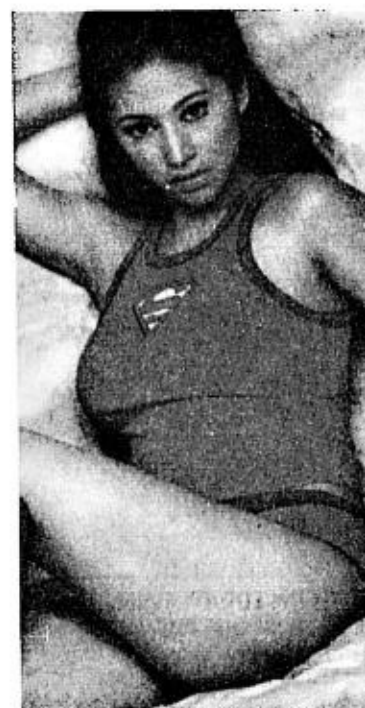
The sexy actress has invested wisely in her own movie, "Masikip sa Dibdib," and she's now raking in the profits from the film's box office success.

"Before the film opened, I was holding my breath. I also had this feeling tight in the chest," admitted Rufa Mae. "I was so nervous. I was only able to relax after I learned that the movie was doing very well at the tills."

This has inspired her to come up with another project soon. But she also credits the movie's success to its director Binibining Joyce Bernal, who also directed Rufa Mae's launching movie, "Booba," three years ago.

"I guess direkt Joyce and I are compatible co-workers. It also helped that we're close friends," said Rufa Mae.

What also helped make the movie a hit is the presence of Fil-Am cager Rudy Harfield, Rufa Mae's real-life boyfriend, according to Direkt



RUFA Mae Quinto

Joyce. This was the first time the couple was seen together in a film, and this gave the movie a *kilig* aspect that the audience lapped up.

'Idol' winner to star in movie



CLARKSON: Former waitress in Texas

HER CHILDHOOD dream was to be a marine biologist. But Kelly Clarkson, 20, a former waitress in Texas, became an "American Idol" instead in 2002 when she received 57 percent of the vote in the final head to head in the popular television show.

Now, Clarkson is also set to star in a movie.

Clarkson joined the school choir at the age of 13, a late bloomer by choral standards. This classical training through the choir was "fundamental to me being able to use my voice to adapt it to different styles of music," says Clarkson.

But a strange twist of fate had led Clarkson to a path in music. She moved to Los Angeles after graduation and began sending her demo tape to record producers. But her apartment burned down, leaving her nearly destitute.

When Clarkson's best friend Jessica suggested that she try out for "American Idol," the former waitress "tried out for fun and here I am," she says.

Clarkson's debut single "A Moment Like This" had broken two world records in its first week alone. Her debut album "Thankful" has sold over a million copies in America alone.

MTV queen Viktoria trades show biz for politics

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SUAL, Pangasinan—Singer, songwriter and record producer Viktoria has known as early as when she was 10 years old that she would either be an artist or a politician.

Now an accomplished musician, Viktoria, who is known as the MTV queen after her video "Sasabihin Ko Na" became the first Filipino-produced MTV shown on MTV Asia, wants to join politics. She is running for mayor of her hometown Sual (pop: 25,000).

But politics is not really a new world for Viktoria, 34, Teresita Victoria Agbayani in real life. She is the youngest of 9 children of the late former Pangasinan Gov. Aguedo Agbayani, the "Grand Old Man" of Pangasinan politics.

Series of events

Two of Viktoria's brothers are also in politics. Gov. Victor Agbayani is running for re-election and outgoing Sual Mayor Luis Agbayani is running for representative of the first district.

Viktoria said her decision to run for mayor was not really her own, but was prompted by "a series of events."

"My name has been coming up as early as last year (as mayoral candidate in Sual). The people of Sual then were specu-



VIKTORIA hugs a supporter.

lating about my plans. The town's political leaders wanted an Agbayani to run. I talked with the local leaders and they asked me to run," she told the INQUIRER.

She said her family even talked with Vice Mayor Alexander Riganon to run for mayor but he declined and told her, "Ikaw na lang (You run instead)."

But Viktoria said the death of her father in October last year made her decide to enter politics.

"When my father died... I don't know how you'd call it—there's something in-

side me, sort of calling me, that I have to continue the legacy of my father," she said.

Viktoria, who is running under the party Kampo, will face John Arcinue of Lakas-CMD and Imelda Juan, an independent candidate.

Politics as dinner fare

Viktoria said that since she grew up in a family of politicians, politics has become regular fare at the Agbayanis' dining table. Jumping from show biz to politics is not really a "drastic" change. She has also been involved in Pangasinan politics for as long as she can remember, she said. In the past, Viktoria has helped campaign for her father and brothers, the singer said.

"My opponents say, *walang alam 'yan, walang exposure... pero 'yan ang kinalakihan ko* (she knows nothing, she has no exposure... but I grew up in a political environment). During family dinners, we talked politics... my father encouraged that," she said.

But her father never encouraged Viktoria to follow his footsteps. He gave her and her

siblings the freedom to choose what they wanted to be.

"But I looked up to him so much. He was an idol. He was my teacher," she said.

When she grew up, Viktoria said she and her father discussed her career, with the old man discouraging her from entering show business.

She said her father thought show business to be "magulo (messy)."

Viktoria said her father again discouraged her when she told him that she wanted to go to law school and become a politician like him.

"I said, 'Pa, what do you want me to be? These are the things that I like, I want to be like you,'" she said.

To criticisms that the Agbayanis are creating a political dynasty in the province, Viktoria said the ultimate judge would be the people.

See the unforgettable photos from the film "MILAN" for exhibit at



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GATES

Gareth Gates, pop idol

POP singer Gareth Gates could barely say his name because of a stammer he'd suffered all his life.

But when he sang, it was with a voice so pure and charged with emotion that could make even a grown man cry. Not only did he have the voice of an angel, but Gareth also had the good looks of a model that made women fall in love with him easily. The first time he sang "Flying Without Wings" on TV's "Pop Idol," Gareth captured the heart of a nation.

With his liquid brown eyes, disarming smile and gorgeous dimples, he has also become the current pin-up of the country.

"For so long, I had struggled to express myself properly through speech. Then I discovered I could do it with music," says Gareth. "That's the reason I put so much into it when I'm up there on stage. The reason I can sing without faltering is because it requires a different kind of breathing from speech."

In the summer of 2001, Gareth auditioned and almost went all the way in the TV series "Pop Idol," where he came in second to Will Young. He got a record deal even if he didn't win.

Just weeks before he auditioned, Gareth enrolled in a course called the McGuire Programme to overcome his stammer. The course, he says, was amazing. But he admits that "in tense situations, I still struggle."

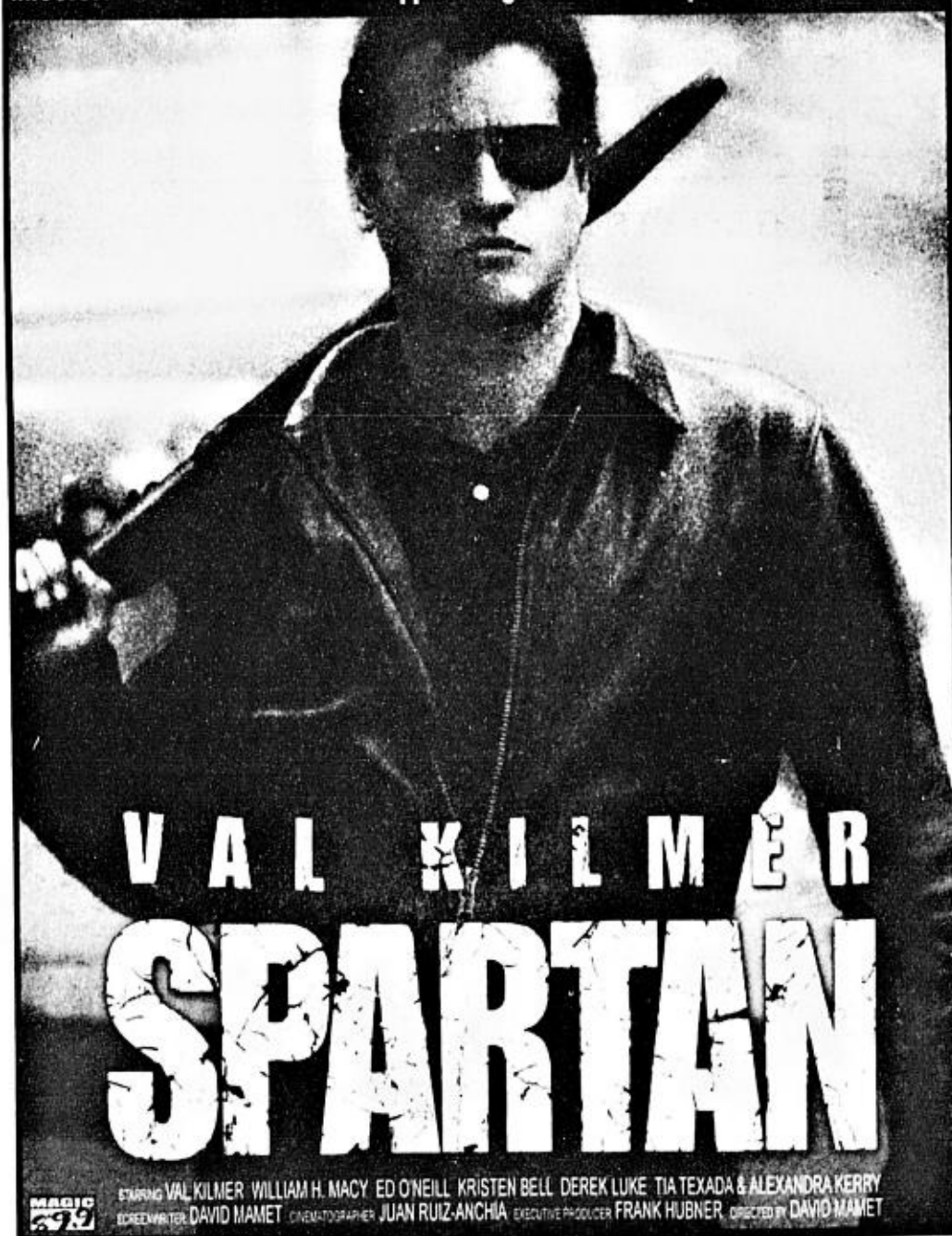
Gareth has since released two albums, "What My Heart Wants to Say" and "Go Your Own Way." "Life will never be the same for me," he says.

MTRCB PG-13 CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE WILL BE ADMITTED

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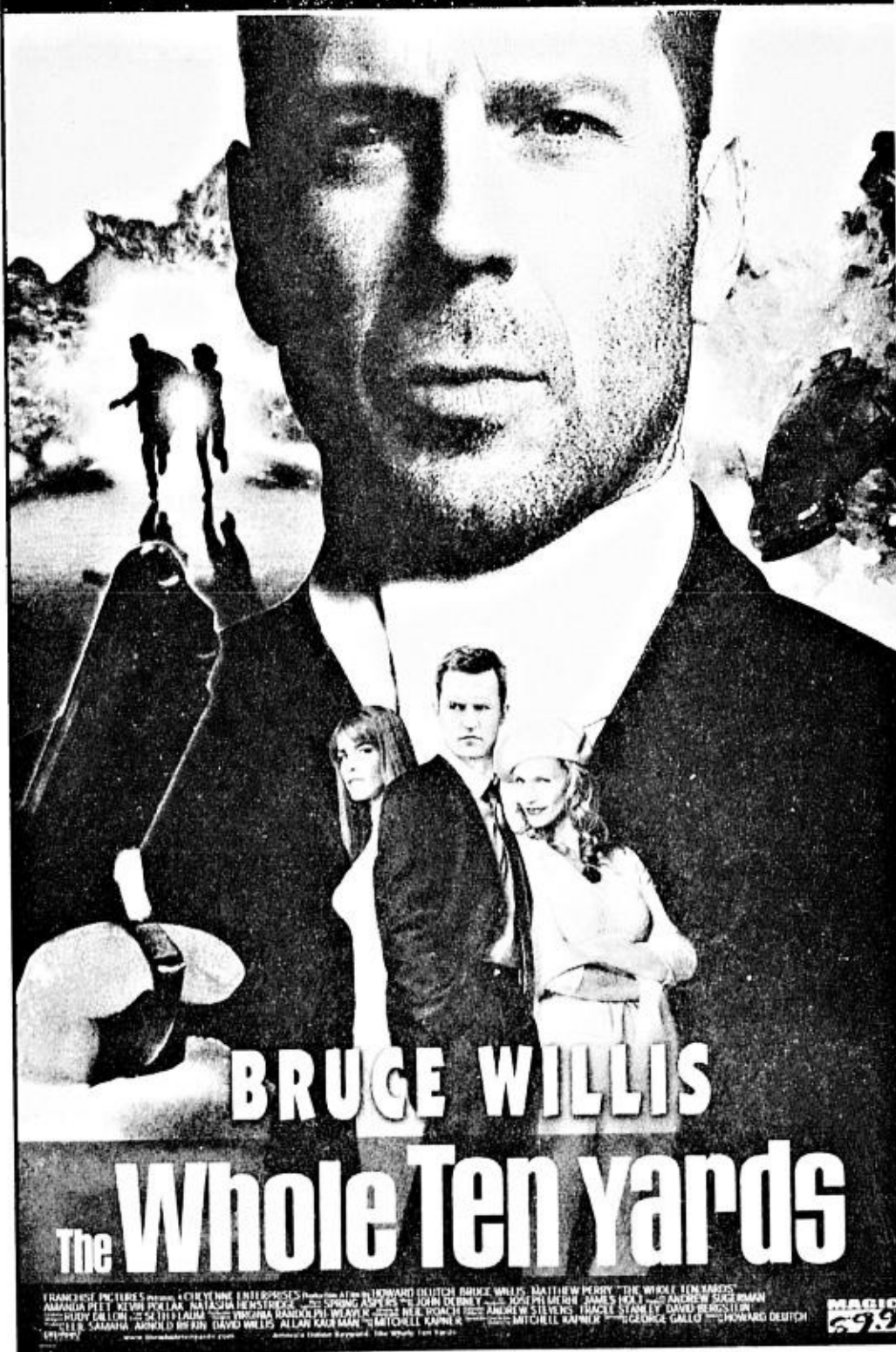


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SPARTAN

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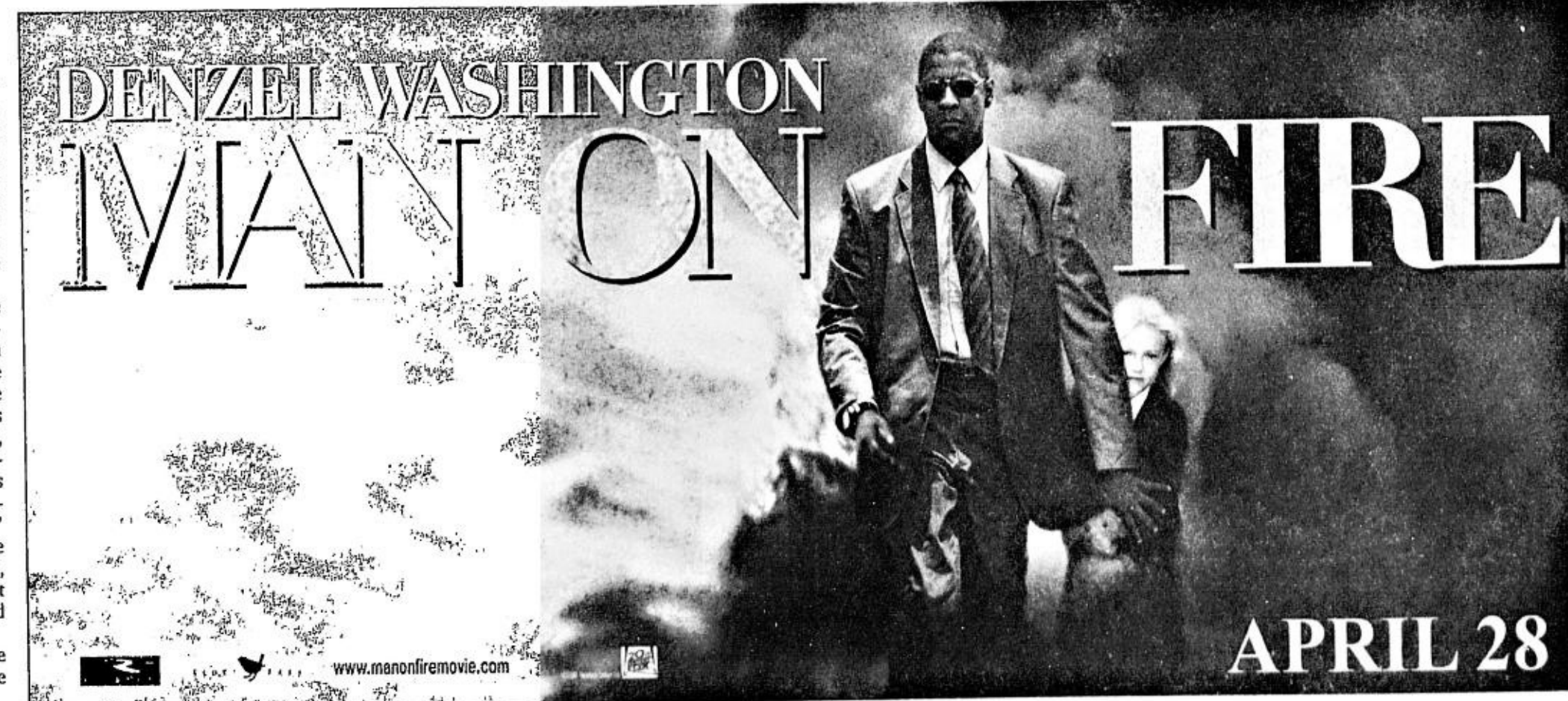
OPENS APRIL 28

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BRUCE WILLIS
The Whole Ten Yards

More movies on pages B9 and B10.



DENZEL WASHINGTON
MAN ON FIRE

APRIL 28

How to determine which movies to support

THE LOCAL film industry's current slump has discouraged some viewers from patronizing Filipino films. —Wrong! In hard times, we need to support local movies, not give them up for lost.

But we must support well-made and substantial productions, not the usual formula quickies and sleazies. How can we determine which new Filipino films to support with our avid and informed patronage?

First, filmmakers have track records, so we can be partial to the writers and directors whose past works have been outstanding. So, we should bone up on movie artists' filmographies, to determine which new movies deserve our viewership.

But we should realize that some heretofore gifted or hard-working filmmakers no longer do really good work, for various reasons. These include their having become lazy, too smug, or too comfortable with compromise.

While we bank on consistently outstanding track records, we should also patronize the films of some new and therefore untested directors. Here, the risk of failure and disappointment is bigger, but we owe it to our new talents to give them a chance to prove their worth—or lack of it.

How can we hedge our bets when it comes to young directors? We shouldn't get seduced by

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



visual brilliance, which is the usual (and limited) stock of trade of some MTV directors, or talents who come from the advertising world.

We have to remind ourselves that filmmaking is storytelling, so we should watch out for new directors who are good at plot and character development, and use images not for their own sake, but to push the story forward. Also, they should be good at handling actors.

Quite a number of new filmmakers falter in this regard, so their directing careers are all too brief.

On point of scripting, we should look out for productions that don't stick to the tired plot formats of yore, but done to tackle issues that are relevant to Filipinos today.

We don't mean that good movies need to be super-serious. Indeed, a comedy or satire can do a lot to engage viewers' interest in a social or political issue that deserves to be tackled on the big screen.

In terms of performance, some

stars have proven that they can be consistently outstanding actors, so we should regularly patronize their starrers. On the other hand, other stars have refused to grow in their art and craft, so we can't be blamed for getting bored with their performances and giving their new films a wide berth.

In addition, we should be open to the fine performances of actors who aren't big stars. We must get away from our narrow-minded fetish for star value, and give greater importance to the portrayals of gifted actors who may not be as popular and acclaimed as they deserve to be.

Also, let's get over our fixation on youth, and appreciate the more textured performance of mature actors.

Finally, we should realize that we should be more selective and judicious about our filmgoing, and support only the movies that we want to see more of in the future.

Sports Plus

GLOBAL Destiny has launched a new sports channel on Channel 17. Sports Plus will enable subscribers to enjoy programs like the PGA Tour Events and Golf International for golf, the French Open and the FED Cup for tennis, the AMF World Cup for bowling, the NFL and AFL for football and

soccer, the NBA, NCAA and Euroleague for basketball—etc! Call 841-9333.

'The Princess Diaries'

GARRY Marshall's "The Princess Diaries" airs anew on Star Movies at 7 p.m. on April 27. The film stars Julie Andrews, Hector Elizondo and Anne Hathaway.

Hathaway plays a San Francisco teenager who is thrown for a loop when she learns that she's a real-life princess. Now she has to make the biggest decision of her life: to remain with her family, or leave everything behind to accept her rightful place among royalty.

Italian Film Festival

FEDERICO Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" will be screened at 7 p.m. on April 27 at the official launching of the Italian Film Festival 2004 at the CCP Little Theater.

A reception will follow after the film showing at the theater lobby. The film is in Italian with English subtitles.

'Milan' on video

OLIVE Lamasan's latest hit, "Milan," has been released on DVD, VHS and VCD. The Star Cinema production stars Piolo Pascual and Claudine Barretto, and was mostly shot in Italy. The VCD and DVD versions contain bonus features and scenes.



First time for Aga, Kristine

FOR THE first time, Aga Mulach teams up with Kristine Hermosa for Star Cinema's "All My Life," directed by Laurenti Dyogi.

The Aga-Kristine coupling is showcased aboard the luxury liner Super Virgo during a cruise run from Singapore to other Asian countries.

It is during the cruise that the characters played by Aga (Sam, a born traveler, who has

to survive a terminal heart ailment) and Kristine (Louise, an accountant who measures life in trickles) meet and fall in love. Their lives change drastically when they meet.

"I enjoy working with younger stars like Claudine (Barretto) and Kristine," says Aga.

"He's my idol and it's a rare privilege to work with him," says Kristine of Aga.

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1 HELLBOY	1 SPARTAN	1 SPARTAN 5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	1 PAYCHECK 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	1 LOVE ACTUALLY
2 SPARTAN	2 HELLBOY	2 BIG FISH 6 HELLBOY	2 HELLBOY 12:40, 3:25, 6:00, 8:35, 11:10	2 TAKING LIVES
3 PAYCHECK		3 PAYCHECK 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 TAKING LIVES 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	3 PAYCHECK	4 IMAGINING ARGENTINA 7 TAKING LIVES	4 BIG FISH 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30	4 GRUDGE 2
5 PETER PAN	4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	GB1 GREENBELT 1 1 BIG FISH 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:35 2 HELLBOY 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35	5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	5 50 FIRST DATES

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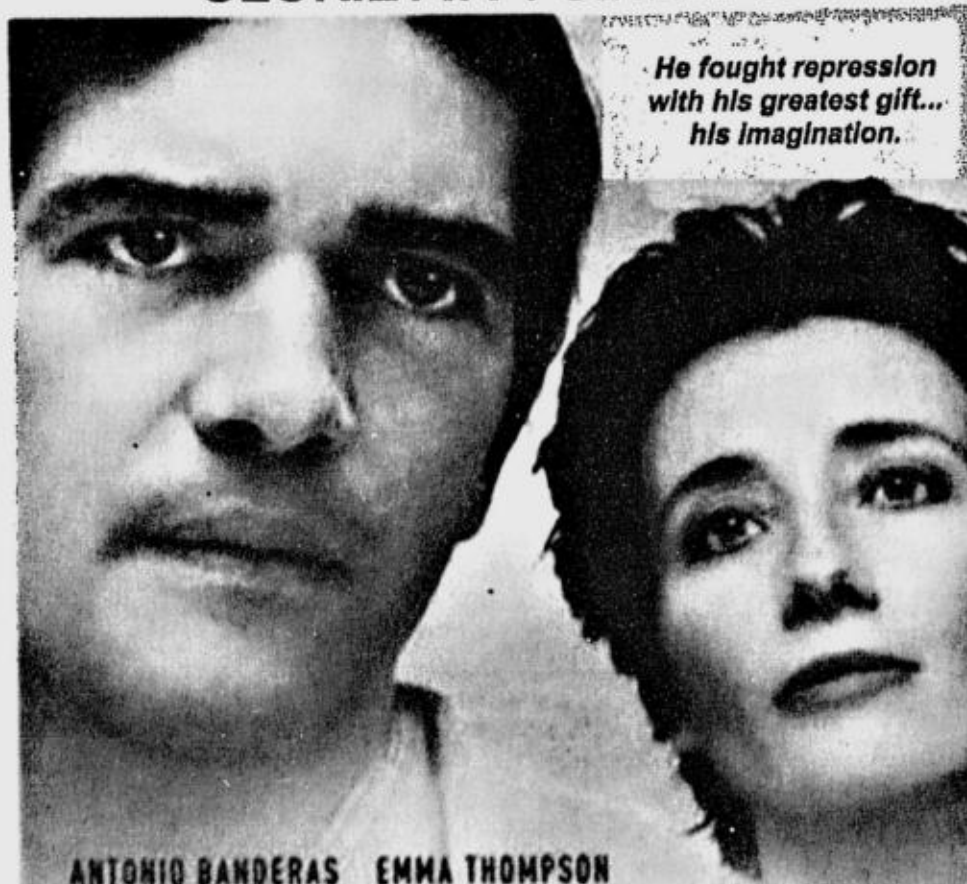


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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Ruffa: Marriage to Yilmaz far from perfect

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

RUFFA Gutierrez admits her marriage to her well-heeled Turkish husband, Yilmaz Bektas, is far from perfect. But she is nonetheless happy that she and Yilmaz have weathered the controversies, which make their married life more colorful.

They refused to be swayed by intrigues, which hounded their marriage a few months after they tied the knot in Manila in March last year.

"By God's mercies, I would not have predicted that our relationship would be close to perfect," Ruffa says. "It has been a roller-coaster ride especially with all the intrigues we went through last summer. There have been ups and

downs. Can you believe it, a year has passed? But thank God, everything has finally fallen into the right place. Things are close to perfect and life is good. I thank God every day for all the blessings He has showered my family and pray to Him to guide us and protect us from the temptations of the world."

Ruffa attests that a year after their wedding last year, they have lived up to all expecta-



RUFFA with Lorin and Yilmaz

tions, even if they had to maintain a long-distance relationship throughout the year. She is based in California, where they bought a condominium unit at Marina del Rey, while Yilmaz attends to the family's many businesses—including petroleum, casino and restaurants—in Istanbul.

"It all seemed so perfect and true," Ruffa grants. "It seemed that with a kiss for luck and everyone's well wishes, we were indeed on our way to an ideal married life. When Yilmaz and I got married, we made a vow to have and hold each other for better or for worst, in front of our family, friends and before God almighty."

Ruffa insists that their relationship has developed into something far richer than her early romantic view.

"We have lived through all the intrigues, birth of our lovely first born, Lorin, disappointments and sorrows, as well as all the pleasures of an enduring relationship. We have worked hard to arrive at a place of ease with one another and our circumstances. It has been a year of married bliss."

Ruffa has learned to value commitment—and so does her husband—even if they have to live apart from each other.

"For us I believe it is dedication to common purposes, a willingness to grow and learn, faith and courage in difficult situations and adaptability," she says.

Hard work

"It implies focused attention and hard work. I must admit that the past year has molded and matured me. All enduring relationships go through many phases. Ironically, it is often the most difficult situations that serve to strengthen relationships. In our case, my being in show business and all the quirks that go with it has moved us from a hardworking couple to a deeper, fuller commitment to each other and our relationship. I am looking forward to more years ahead, if not forever, with my handsome, sweet prince."

Ruffa and Yilmaz were together in Istanbul, with baby Lorin, when they celebrated their first wedding anniversary last March 25. The couple had a romantic dinner at the Tugra restaurant of the Ciragan Palace (former residence of the King of Turkey-Sultan Abdulmejid), which is now part of the Kempinski Hotel. Dining on delicious Ottoman cuisine, Ruffa said they had fabulous views of the European shores of the Bosphorus.

"In between all the activity, we both took the time to reflect on our commitment to ourselves, to each other and to our relationship," Ruffa says.

The couple is also expecting their second baby whom they fondly call "Nemo." Ruffa has yet to undergo an ultrasound test next month to determine if the baby is a boy or a girl. She is due to give birth on Oct. 1. By that time, Lorin would have been a year and 2 months old. Ruffa wants to give birth again in the United States, so that makes her baby an American citizen, like what she had always wanted.

The immediate pregnancy is not really surprising, since Ruffa and Yilmaz both expressed their desire to have many kids when they tied the knot last year. Ruffa, after all, comes from a big family. She is the eldest and only girl among six children of Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama.

Nemo's coming

"Yilmaz and I are even all too excited about Nemo's coming," Ruffa says. "In the meantime, we are extremely enjoying Lorin."

She is growing so fast. Last Easter Sunday, we threw a small party for her to celebrate the coming of her first tooth. Whether it's a Turkish tradition or a Muslim one, it's all good. I love parties!"

In late February, Ruffa returned to Manila to fulfill two commitments that she earlier gave her nod to. She attended the grand launch of the 2004 Gandang Ricky Reyes campaign of which she is the image model, held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines first week of March.

That same week, Ruffa was also supposed to host the 2004 Binibining Pilipinas coronation night, but she was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital on the day of the pageant after she was found to have sporting because of her pregnancy.

From Manila, Ruffa was supposed to go to Istanbul to join Yilmaz, but after checking out of the hospital, Ruffa instead flew to California. Yilmaz had apparently advised Ruffa to rest and not to go to Istanbul unless she gets the approval of her doctor in California.



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MTRCB Rating: PG13

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Go group foils Sy entry into Equitable PCI

By Doris C. Dumlaio

EQUITABLE PCI Bank blocked all the nominees of retail magnate Henry Sy from its 15-member board during yesterday's stockholders' meeting, citing conflict of interest with the country's third biggest lender.

"They are nominees of a group with interests in conflict or adverse to the bank," EPCI corporate secretary Nilo Divina said during the meeting.

The Sy group nominated Exequiel Villacorta, former president of TA Bank; bankers Violeta Lim and Josefina Tan; Rafael Alunan III, interior secretary during the Aquino administration, and Banco De Oro Universal Bank chair Teresita Sy-Coson.

Divina cited a provision in the bank's by-laws as well as a precedent set by the Supreme Court

that allows the company to protect itself by barring competitors from getting into its board.

An SC ruling in the 1980s prevented taipan John Gokongwei's bid to join the board of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. because he was likewise involved in the food business (Universal Robina Corp). The management of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. harped on the same ruling in arguing against Gokongwei's hostile takeover bid two years ago, given the taipan's ownership of rival Digital Telecom-

munications.

The disqualification of Sy's nominees due to conflict of interest reasons confirmed that EPCI Bank's founding Go family viewed the deal between the taipan's Banco de Oro Universal Bank and state-owned Social Security System as a hostile takeover attempt.

The SSS had agreed to sell its 29-percent stake in EPCI Bank to BDO but the deal is still awaiting clearance from the Department of Justice.

The SSS, for its part, is hoping that it could get two more representatives into the bank's board. SSS president Corazon Dela Paz noted two vacant seats in the board.

The two SSS nominees were Miguel Roca and Ramon Jabar

who, however, were disqualified during yesterday's stockholders' meeting on technicality. They did not have any shares under their name as of the cut-off date.

The SM group, which was hoping to get one board seat during today's election, was also protesting EPCI Bank's invalidation of key proxies solicited from other minority investors.

Elected to EPCI Bank's board during yesterday's meeting were 13 directors: Antonio Go (chair); Corazon dela Paz (vice chair); John Go (vice chair); Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (vice chair); Rene Buenaventura (president); Ma. Luz Gerosero, John Go, Teodoro Regino, Anthony Conway, Roberto Romulo, Genevieve Go, Peter Go-Pailan and Rey Palmieri.

INDICATORS CURRENCIES

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P 55.64 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., April 20, 2004

Y 107.96 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., April 20, 2004

GOLD: \$399.70-400.20

per ounce Hong Kong, April 20, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Stocks surge

STOCKS rallied to their highest close in nearly three months yesterday, lifted by the largest US pension fund's decision to keep investing in the country.

The peso's rise to a three-month high, partly on the back of overseas workers and healthy trade figures, also boosted sentiment, traders said.

The main stock index gained 1.9 percent or 28.48 points to 1,525.96 points, leaving the market's gains so far this year at 5.8 percent.

Turnover widened to P533.85 million from P451.7 million on Monday. Gainers were in a near three-to-one majority.

Reuters

Yield of 4-yr bonds drops

THE COST of the government's 4-year borrowing was slashed by 76.6 basis points during yesterday's auction as the market regained appetite for government securities amid news President Macapagal-Arroyo now has a strong chance of getting reelected.

From 11.375 percent during its

last offering on March 30, the yield of the 4-year treasury bond fell to 10.609 percent.

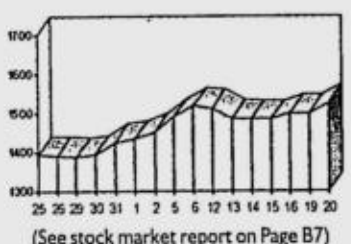
The market scrambled for the 4-year debt paper as tenders reached P15.33 billion compared with the P3.5 billion offered by the government. The government accepted P3.5 billion worth of bids.

Michelle V. Remo

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MARCH

APRIL



(See stock market report on Page B7)

BIR to audit professionals

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to audit the value-added tax remittance of professionals after suffering from poor VAT collection last year, which it suspected was due to delinquency of individual taxpayers.

The BIR said it would begin the audit with high-paying professionals—such as doctors, lawyers and architects. The audit would be conducted starting next month, the BIR added.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares told reporters that the revenue agency's 2003 VAT collection from professionals did not even reach the P1-billion mark in the first quarter. The BIR targeted to collect P9 billion from VAT on professionals last year.

BIR/B3



EDUARDO M. Cojuangco Jr., unanimously reelected as chair of San Miguel Corp., presides over the food and beverage giant's stockholders meeting yesterday at the Valle Verde Country Club. With him are (from left) Ferdinand K. Constantino, Chief Finance Officer and Treasurer, Estelito P. Mendoza, director and Ramon S. Ang, president and COO. ROGER MARGALLO

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attractive.

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people who spend most of their time in

college classrooms. I am just as right for

folks who make their money

sitting in boardrooms. I am fun.

I am power. I am value.

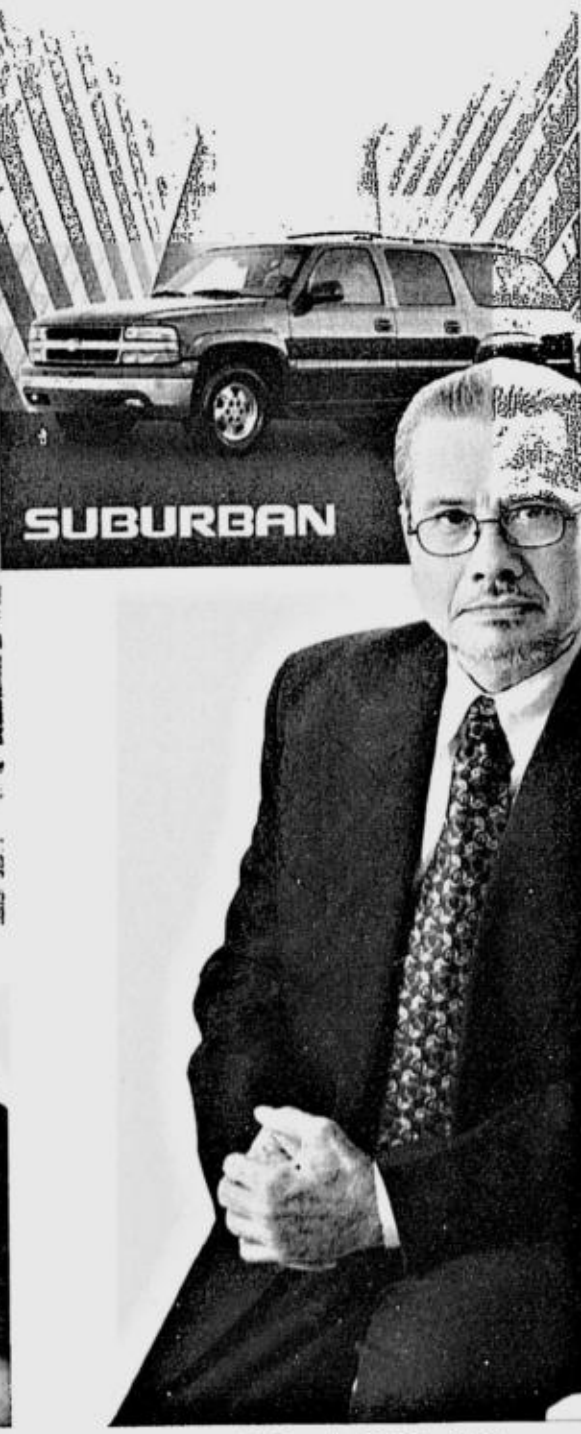
I am legendary.



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Piltel creditors seek 2-week extension of Smart deadline

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANK of the Philippine Islands, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Land Bank of the Philippines, creditors of Pilipino Telephone Corp., have prepared a joint request for more time to study Smart Communications Inc.'s offer to absorb the debts of Piltel.

The request, sources said,

would be sent to Smart shortly.

Smart gave Piltel creditors only up to April 20 to respond to its offer. The three banks, however, want a week or two more to study the offer, since the proposal will involve losses for banks. Smart offered to absorb Piltel's obligations worth P20.5 billion through the discount; cash settlement at a discount; conversion

into Smart's medium-term dollar loans at a discount, conversion into a 10-year debt of Smart, or a swap with sovereign-guaranteed dollar bonds held by Smart.

A successful debt conversion will allow Smart to acquire Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s 45-percent stake in Piltel. Smart wanted to conclude the debt swap by May 5.

Japanese supplier Marubeni Corp., said a source, was inclined to accept Smart's offer to convert Piltel's outstanding obligations into Smart's 10-year debt maturing in 2014 with a fixed interest of 2.25 percent per year.

Sources said BPI, the country's second-largest bank, was considering converting its Piltel exposure into Smart's medium-term or long-term

debt. Metrobank and LandBank were reportedly keen on swapping their Piltel exposure to 12-year sovereign-guaranteed bonds.

Piltel's debt restructuring can only push through if at least 75 percent of the company's existing obligations are swapped with Smart debt.

By accepting its affiliate's stake, Smart could use Piltel's tax

credits to reduce its tax payments and realize savings.

Piltel has about P13.5 billion in net operating loss carryover or Nolco benefits incurred in 2001 and 2002 that should lead to tax credits of P4.3 billion this year.

An official from one of Piltel's biggest creditors said the debt swap options offered by Smart would entail a severe haircut or losses.

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RP posted narrow trade surplus in Feb.

THE PHILIPPINES posted a narrow trade surplus in February, leaving hopes intact that the country is putting a sluggish performance behind it as global demand picks up.

The government yesterday said the country had registered a trade surplus of \$5 million in February, compared with a deficit of \$28 million a year earlier.

Imports rose 6.3 percent to \$2.99 billion in the year through February, slower than the 9 percent rise in the 12 months to January. This, however, still suggests that the economy was drawing in more goods to feed its export industries.

February exports were 7.5 percent higher than a year earlier at \$2.99 billion, the government announced earlier this month.

Analysts said political uncertainty ahead of the May 10 national election was probably limiting the country's ability to take advantage of rising global demand for electronics and fend off stiff competition from China.

"That may continue to have some impact," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist with GK Goh securities in Singapore.

"After that, we are hopeful that as long as underlying demand on the tech side remains firm, we will see an improvement in terms of imports of capital goods together with an improvement in raw material and intermediate goods," Song noted that February's 7.5 percent rise in capital goods imports had been the slowest in three months, possibly a result of weaker demand in the economy.

But imports of electronics parts were 17

percent higher than a year earlier at \$1.495 billion and accounted for half of arriving goods and services.

"The February imports figure is indicating that stronger growth in previous months may have built up some inventories for the near term," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"But the 6 percent year-on-year growth is still good news." Exports picked up in February after a weak start in the first month of the year as demand for electronics climbed in line with the global economic recovery.

The local electronics industry assembles imported components into finished goods for export, so a rise in imports is often seen as a herald of brighter trade figures.

Electronics account for two-thirds of the country's export earnings.

The Philippines is still falling short of its neighbors in terms of export performance. The 7.5 percent rise in the year to February compared with gains of 16.7 percent in Malaysia and 34.7 percent in Taiwan.

"With China continuing to be the alternative area for investment, particularly for electronics, that has been at the expense of the Philippines," said Song.

Ecozone exports rose 25% to \$2.35B in Jan.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S economic zones reported a 25 percent growth in exports last January to \$2.35 billion from \$1.88 billion in the same month last year.

At the same time, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) said the number of jobs created by the ecozones went up 14 percent to 973,000 from 852,000.

Peza data showed that the four government ecozones yielded a total of \$523.4 million in export receipts last January, an improvement of 9.6 percent from \$477.5 million last year.

In January, Bataan City Economic Zone exported \$226.2 million worth of products; Cavite Economic Zone, \$142.7 million; Mactan Economic Zone, \$114.1 million; and Bataan Economic Zone, \$40.4 million.

The special economic zones shipped out a total of \$1.83 billion worth of products, an increase of 30 percent from \$1.41 billion in January 2003.

The top five SEZ exporters are Laguna Technopark Inc., \$596.4 million; Gateway Business Park, \$375.9 million; Amkor Technology SEZ, \$130 million; Carmel Industrial Park I, \$108.6 million; and Light Industry & Science Park II, \$68.9 million.

The biggest SEZ exporter Laguna Technopark suffered a 20-percent drop in export receipts, compared with a yield of \$753.9 million in January last year.

Earlier, Peza reported that ecozone investments in the first quarter ballooned by 515.6 percent to P21.87 billion from P3.55 billion in the same period last year.

Peza director general Lilia B. de Lima had said investments in the ecozones indicated that an upturn in business had started.



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Tel. Nos. 551-22-00, 522-00-00, 526-01-00

STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Head Office and Branches) As of March 23, 2004

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 5,134,184,572
Due from Bangko Sentral	11,863,632,933
Due from Other Banks	1,920,215,085
Interbank Loans Receivable	24,141,559,729
Trading Account Securities (Net)	275,916,823
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	99,487,542,426
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	103,488,166,005
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	18,265,068
Equity Investments (Net)	5,957,699,204
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	4,866,228,384
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/Acquired	15,354,163,518
Others	12,417,494,766
TOTAL ASSETS	P 284,925,078,513
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 76,123,239,896
Savings Deposits	99,436,387,357
Time Deposits	31,773,870,315
Special/Other Deposits	1,241,723,617
Due to Bangko Sentral	105,917,470
Due to Banks	185,529,357
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,179,391,929
Bills Payable	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	6,551,805,355
Interbank Borrowings	100,000,000
Deposits Substitutes	237,058,512
Others	30,363,277,398
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,811,196,246
Other Liabilities	10,583,464,039
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 261,693,661,491
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 10,200,000,000
Surplus	8,138,091,033
Surplus Reserves	4,866,412,077
Other Capital Accounts	26,713,912
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 23,211,217,022
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 284,925,078,513

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 4,215,845,256
Bills for Collection	764,797,188
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	10,200,529,769
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(892,470,611)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	
Invested in:	7,004,042,783
- Government Securities	
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	89,381,316
- Loans and Discounts	1,802,149,096
- Other Assets	4,535,771,287
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	3,878,461,799
- Common Trust Funds	2,798,984,036
- Investment Fund Management	6,755,898,647
Other Contingent Accounts	37,482,588,435
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 65,202,634,519

One Information:
1. Deposits of:
a. Government P 139,070,084,862
b. Banks 5,251,214,775
c. Trust Department 473,773,202

2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises) 16.37%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises) 5.39%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans 23,611,078,541
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio 16.32 %
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets 49,471,770,208
6. General Provision for Loan Losses 1,387,682,722
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses 15,631,556,131
8. Return on Equity (ROE) 9.36%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances 2,918,970,526
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio 2.02%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances 742,486

Includes Losses Classified as "Loss" which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P3,736,713,895.04

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
FVP-Controlling Group President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 16th day of April 2004 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 06014496 issued in Manila on January 9, 2004 and Residence Certificate No. 05307021 issued in the City of Manila on January 8, 2004

FLORENCE ROSALIND R. CLAVERIA
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2005
PTR No. 2813228
Issued on January 20, 2004
Manila

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION (Bank and Financial Subsidiaries) As of March 23, 2004

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 5,138,158,953
Due from Bangko Sentral	11,863,632,933
Due from Other Banks	2,016,765,792
Interbank Loans Receivable	24,141,559,730
Trading Account Securities (Net)	275,916,823
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	99,538,326,809
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)	103,449,348,987
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	18,265,068
Equity Investments (Net)	5,158,375,836
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	5,035,693,078
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/Acquired	15,389,193,782
Others	13,459,180,986
TOTAL ASSETS	P 285,482,417,879
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 76,108,707,082
Savings Deposits	99,427,744,120
Time Deposits	31,773,870,315
Special/Other Deposits	1,241,723,617
Due to Bangko Sentral	106,917,470
Due to Banks	185,529,357
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,181,725,223
Bills Payable	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	6,551,805,355
Interbank Borrowings	100,000,000
Deposits Substitutes	237,058,512
Others	30,363,277,398
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	4,364,568,000
Other Liabilities	10,600,145,827
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 262,243,142,276
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 10,200,000,000
Surplus	8,146,050,978
Surplus Reserves	4,866,510,713
Other Capital Accounts	26,713,912
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 23,239,275,603
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 285,482,417,879

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

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- Loans and Discounts	1,802,149,096
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- Trust and Other Fiduciary	3,878,461,799
- Common Trust Funds	2,798,984,036
- Investment Fund Management	6,755,898,647
Other Contingent Accounts	37,482,588,435
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 65,202,634,519

One Information:
1. Deposits of:
a. Government P 139,070,084,862
b. Banks 5,251,214,775
c. Trust Department 473,773,202

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
a. LBP Leasing Corporation
b. LBP Financial Services, SPA
c. LBP Remittance Co., USA

FLORENCE ROSALIND R. CLAVERIA
Notary Public
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Deposit Amount (in pesos)	Term / Current Interest Rates (%)				
	30-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-364 days	1 year
100,000 - 299,999	5.25	5.50	5.50	5.50	6.50
300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1,000,000 - 4,999,999	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00
5 million and up	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

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Charles Darwin

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20-21	Work Ethics Learning Experience (WELE)
26-28	Finance for the Non-financial Manager

DATE	PROGRAM
JUNE	
09-11	Leading and Managing Change
16-18	Creating A Balanced Scorecard
23-25	The New Fundamentals of Effective Marketing

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Siy-bling revelry

FEUDING textile scions Bernadine and George Siy signed a memorandum of agreement on Sunday preparatory to eventually dividing the family empire.

That's the good news.

The not-so-good news is that the following day, when Bernadine returned to the family-owned Singapore Airlines building in Salcedo Village to reopen her corporate offices she hastily abandoned in November when the feud was getting physical, the eldest Siy child discovered that the offices had been "ransacked," with drawers and cabinets forcibly opened.

An Amorsolo painting was also missing, as well as other paintings by lesser artists.

It is not immediately clear if Monday's discovery would unravel the amicable settlement so painstakingly negotiated by long-time family friend, Davao-based retail magnate James Gaisano, but Gaisano, who left later in the evening for the United States, dismissed the incident as "one of those things."

According to the grapevine, the six Siy siblings have agreed to drop all court cases filed against each other, preparatory to the division of the diverse family assets that include Jag/Lees jeans, Popeye's, Kenny Rogers, Seattle's Best, Marie France, and Svenson Hair Centre.

Bernadine, the eldest of the six, counts two brothers on her side. George, who comes after Bernadine, is allied with two younger sisters.

Bernadine's ace is that she lives with their mother, and that the Siy matriarch and the two closest aunts have all decided in Bernadine's favor to lead the family empire.

Both George and Bernadine declined to discuss the incident, with both sides saying they were trying to keep good faith and the agreement alive.

Alpha's omega

THE unit owners of Alpha Salcedo Condominium in Salcedo Village's H. de la Costa St. will attempt to wrest control of the condo association in next week's annual meeting after discovering that the developer, Alberto Yu and family, had lent the residents money to another Yu company, KST Land Development Corp., at sub-market rate.

There are other incredible stories as well, which can all be explained by this: The Yuseat Alpha Salcedo as if it still were a family corporation.

Hot justice

WHILE the Supreme and Court of Appeals justices are enjoying the spring weather in Baguio, the clerk of court and the administrative staff of Regional Trial Court Branch 1 of Manila are literally frying in their fat.

The decrepit window-type airconditioner conked out more than a month ago, according to the grapevine, after taking daily blasts of hot air and torturous/tortuous/tortious language from lawyers.

The staff has been pleading with City Hall to replace the busted unit—people can go berserk in that baking heat in such cramped quarters—but the feedback they have received so far is that the election ban prevents even such maintenance expenditure.

Injudicious moves

- IN addition to drowning in debt, Negros Navigation also owes the government P423 million in withholding, income, common carriers, documentary, and value-added taxes as of end-February.

- AFTER eight years of court battle, former Solidbank vice president Danilo Lazaro finally won a writ of execution from the Court of Appeals last June directing the Philippine Charter Insurance Corp. to release his P1.618-million award for illegal dismissal.

Despite a contempt ruling from the National Labor Relations Commission, Philippine Charter for still unclear reason is still contesting the release of the bond/monetary award.

- WHOOPS, we goofed. It's a patent infringement case, not copyright as reported here on Monday, which has been filed by AstraZeneca against the Unilab Group before the Parañaque RTC.

Heard through the grapevine

IF all the proxies had been validated in yester-

PBCom sale to new investors tied to rehab

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. has required the controlling shareholders of medium-sized Philippine Bank of Communications to divest in favor of a new investor within five years.

In an interview Monday night, PDIC president Ricardo Tan said part of the agreement when PDIC extended a P7.6-billion financial package to PBCom was for the bank to sell at least 67 percent of its stake in no less than five years.

"That's part of the agreement and we've even secured an SPA (special power of attorney) for that," Tan said.

He said PBCom was required to give PDIC the SPA so that the latter could enforce the sale of shares if the bank's shareholders would not be able to do so within the prescribed period.

The bank's three major stockholders are the families of Luy (37 percent), Nubla (28 percent) and Chung (26 percent).

The PDIC chief said a lot of investors would surely be interested in the bank during the period.

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

day afternoon's stockholders' meeting of Equitable PCIBank, the Social Security System would have been able to increase its nominees in the board to five, from last year's four.

SSS' five, GSIS' two, Romualdez's one, and Henry Sy's one would make nine, against the Go family's four.

But after the EPCIB corporate secretary's uplift/downlift validation of proxies, the Gos came out with seven seats, Sy got zero, and the SSS/GSIS combine reduced to only five.

In addition, EPCIB yesterday reduced the board seats to only 13 from 15.

No wonder even the normally cool GSIS nominee Fulgencio Factoran Jr. went to court last week to stop, in vain, the Go game plan.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

From page B1

"The result of the collection was very disappointing. It did not even reach 10 percent of the full-year goal," Henares said.

The revenue official said the audit on professionals would be done using third-party information, such as tax declarations of their clients.

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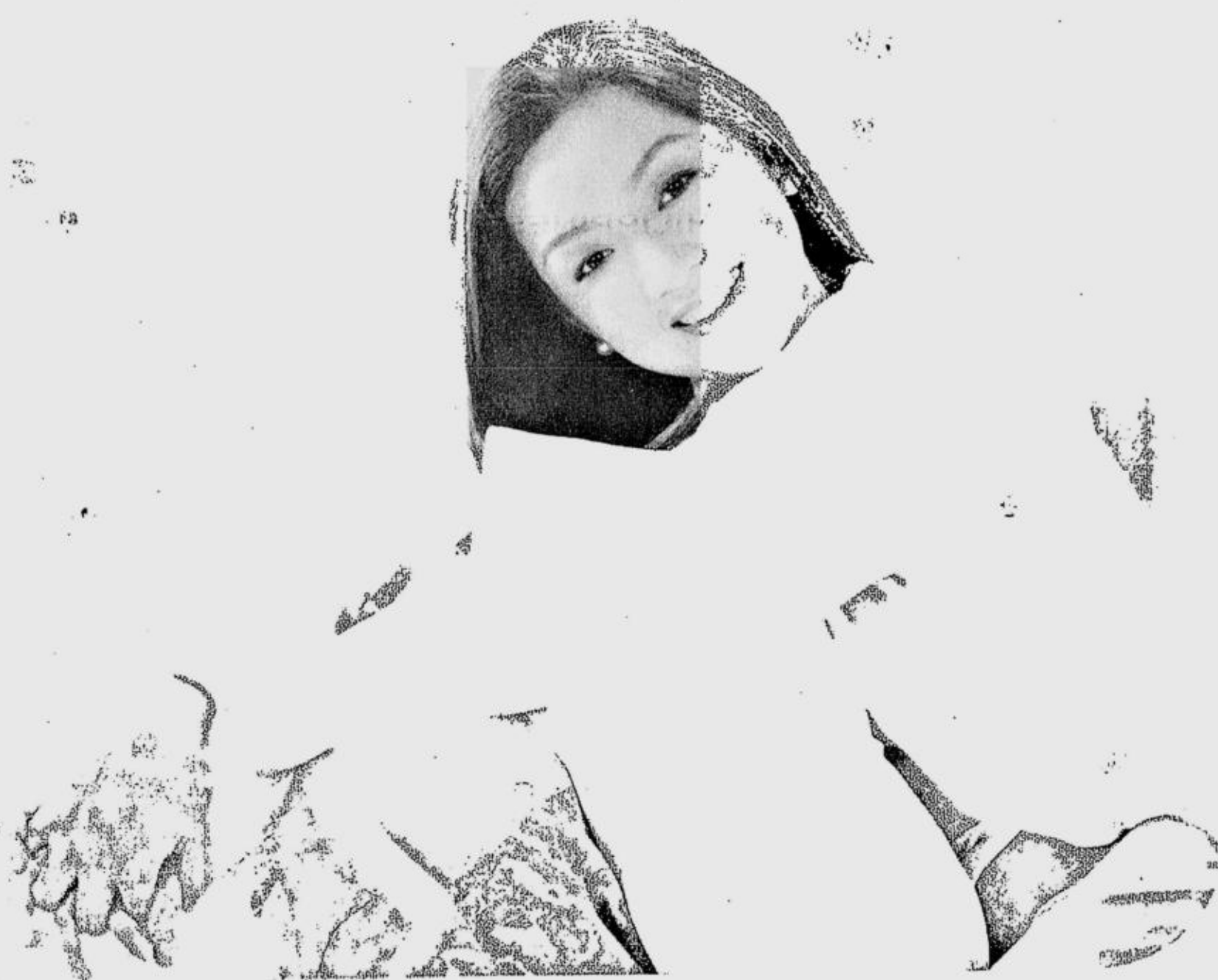
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Maybank

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 20, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	97,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45	44.5	45	1,742,500
China Banking Corp.	675	675	670	670	180
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	39.5	40	79,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.25	24.5	24	24.25	472,500
Security Bank Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	10,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	63,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	52,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1500	1505	1500	1505	830
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22.75	22	22.75	26,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.66	0.67	280,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	875	890	870	880	47,310
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	50,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	6,972,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1070	1075	1065	1065	112,510
Vantage Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	11,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19.25	18.75	19.25	116,700
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	29.5	27.5	29.5	1,724,700
Petron Corp.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.15	3,594,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.98	130,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	46,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	13,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	190,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	855,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	100,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	64,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	19.75	20.25	19.75	20	651,500
RFM Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	58.5	57	58.5	227,800
San Miguel Corp. B	72	74	72	74	198,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	4,993,000
Abnottz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.8	1,841,000
APC Group Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
Benares Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.55	13,790,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,000,000
Ever-Gotescos Resources	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	24.25	22.75	24.25	1,895,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	18,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	5,077,000
Metropacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	4,690,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	16,600,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	960,000
SP1 Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	9,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
CEN Azucar De Terlac	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.12	1.12	1	1.04	198,000
Pryce Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.3	0.25	0.3	1,080,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	82,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	8,374,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,610,000
Finnvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	3,527,000
Fi-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	930,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	22,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	593,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,030,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	510,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	7,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,527,710	96,178,975.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	94,641,720	381,666,925.00
PRO	15,366,000	55,326,890.00
Mining	10,550,000	398,600.00
OIL	6,000,000	24,000.00
GRAND TOTALS	129,085,430	533,595,390.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	427.25	UP 1.35
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,408.25	UP 54.36
PRO	536.95	UP 7.29
Mining	1,433.65	DOWN 33.36
OIL	1.18	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	957.97	UP 3.20
Composite	1,525.95	UP 28.48

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 11; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 78;
NO. OF TRADES: 2,113

DISCLOSURES

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 26, 3 p.m. at the Liberty Bldg., 835 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City. Record date is April 30.

CITYLAND Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 1, 4 p.m. at the 3/F Cityland Condominium 10 Tower II, 154 H.V. dela Costa St., Ayala North, Makati City.

VICTORIAS Milling Company Inc. disclosed that representatives from C.L. Manabat & Co. will occupy two seats in the board of election inspectors for the company's annual stockholders' meeting on April 30.

ELECTED directors of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. were Felipe U. Yap, Bryan U. Yap, Eduardo R. Alvarez, Charles L. Bradish, Martin Judson Dy Buncio, Jerry C. Angping and Crescencio C. Yap. Independent directors are John D. Fairfield and Wilfredo K. Tecson.

BELLE Corp. rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting to June 3, 3 p.m. Record date is May 3. Also, Henry T. Sy Jr. was elected member and co-vice chair of the board, and member of the company's executive and nomination committees. *Compiled by Erika Samiento, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

April 20, 2004	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Country				
United States	Dollar	0.833611204	1.000000	55.7650
Japan	Yen	0.007741	0.009286	0.5178
United Kingdom	Pound	1.498666	1.797800	100.2543
Hongkong	Dollar	1.06898	0.128235	7.1510
Switzerland	Franc	0.643964	0.772499	43.0784
Canada	Dollar	0.619647	0.743329	41.4517
Singapore	Dollar	0.497322	0.596588	33.2687
Australia	Dollar	0.620108	0.743882	41.4826
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.612229	2.652590	147.9217
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222291	0.266660	14.8703
Brunei	Dollar	0.495843	0.594813	33.1697
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000097	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.02118	0.025407	1.4168
UAE	Dirham	0.226969	0.272272	15.1832
Euro	Euro	1	1.199600	66.8957
Argentina/Peso	REAL	0.296132	19.8100	
Brazil	REAL	0.28676	0.343997	19.1830
Denmark	Kroner	0.134336	0.161159	8.9865
India	Rupae	0.01905	0.022852	1.2743
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219401	0.263193	14.6770
Mexico	New Peso	0.074033	0.088810	4.9525
New Zealand	Dollar	0.532999	0.639386	35.6554
Norway	Kroner	0.120906	0.145039	8.0881
Pakistan	Rupae	0.014791	0.017743	0.9894
South Africa	Rand	0.12987	0.155792	8.6877
Korea	Won	0.000718	0.000861	0.0480
Sweden	Kroner	0.108765	0.130475	7.2759
Syria	Pound	0.018869	0.022635	1.2622
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025368	0.030432	1.6970
Venezuela	Bollvar	0.000435	0.000522	0.0291

COJUANGCO PREDICTION**SMC to be among Asia's best by '07**

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN Miguel Corp. aims to number among Asia's 10 biggest food and beverage companies by 2007, SMC chair and chief operating officer Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. said yesterday.

Cojuangco said SMC will start a number of expansion projects in Asia Pacific by the second half of next year which will firm up its foothold in the region.

SMC already identified seven countries as part of its regional expansion in Asia Pacific.

These are Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and Australia, initially earmarking \$100 million for each venture.

SMC recently signed an agreement to acquire assets of Thai beer maker Thai Amarit Brewery Ltd. for \$102 million which include a brewery on a 21.75-hectare site at the Pathum Thani province in Central Thailand, some 30 kilometers north of Bangkok.

The brewery has a capacity of about 1 million hectoliters.

The Pathum Thani site still has around 11 hectares of vacant land available for future expansion.

The brewery will allow the entry of SMC's own beer brands and provide access to the fast-growing and largest beer market in Southeast Asia.

Last November, SMC also purchased a leading feeds producer in Vietnam.

It also recently secured a business license for its non-alcoholic beverages in Shunde, Guangdong Province in mainland China.

The company's total investment there will amount to \$45 million while the franchise will allow the company to operate in

Shunde for 50 years, or until March 2054.

Showing it has enough muscle to carry out its expansion plans, SMC reported a 30 percent increase in its first quarter earnings to P1.74 billion, primarily due to the 25 percent growth in beer sales.

Operating income increased by 33 percent during the period to P3.43 billion, driven by domestic beverage operations.

Revenue, on the other hand, expanded by 28 percent to P9.54 billion. Sales revenue from international beer operations also improved 14 percent to \$58.7 million.

Cojuangco was given a fresh mandate to push through with the ambitious expansion program after the board unanimously decided to keep him as chair.

"We said we'll try for majority but if we can't, it is fine as long as business is conducted regularly and beneficial to stockholders," Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac said.

This came amid reports that the PCGG will try to woo mall operator group led by Henry Sy to support the government's vote in the board.

The PCGG is represented by Menardo Jimenez, Pacifico Fajardo, Edmundo da Silva Jose, Leo Alvez and Octavio Espiritu.

Pension funds Government Service and Insurance System and the Social Security System have one seat each.

Other members of the board are SMC vice chair Ramon Ang, lawyer Estelito Mendoza, Manuel Cojuangco, Inigo Zobel as independent director, Henry Sy Jr. of the SM Group, and Kirin representatives Shigeki Ota and Hiroshi Oshima.

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U.S. GRAND JURY PROBE

Local telecoms to take shelter in Philippine laws

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE telecommunication companies under fire for alleged price-fixing and anti-competitive behavior would invoke local laws to defend their position before a United States grand jury.

Bayan Telecommunications Inc. of the Lopez family said that its lawyers, Vinsons and Elkins, would turn to the provisions of Presidential Decree 1718 so they would not be compelled to give up crucial documents to the US court.

"We have not been sending documents (to the US grand jury) because there were legal remedies available under our jurisdiction," said Gary Oliva, BayanTel chief finance officer. "Our law allows us not to comply. We should ... follow the rules of our jurisdiction. It is available to us that is why we used it."

Thirty Philippine telecom executives are facing a federal grand jury probe for alleged anti-trust. They were served subpoenas while attending the Pacific Telecommunications Council conference in Hawaii in January.

The executives took up the advice of government lawyers to invoke Philippine laws in their stand before the US grand jury.

PD 1718 prohibits vital Philippine industries from presenting documents that would put the national interest at a disadvantage.

Philippine officials said the government could also invoke its mutual legal assistance treaty with the United States to help defend local telecom carriers from US government charges that they behaved like a cartel.

Globe officials said that it would be best for their foreign lawyers to handle the matter. Globe has taken on the services of the Wiley Raines & Fielding law firm.

William Pamintuan, senior vice president for legal and inter-carrier relations of Digital Telecommunications Inc., said that they are looking at how the other carriers, particularly Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe and Smart Communications Inc., would deal with the US probe and whether they would invoke Philippine laws.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis earlier said that the justice department brought up the possibility of invoking the bilateral treaty with the US to prevent the American government from securing the documents of telecom firms as well as issuing subpoenas to local executives.

The US action to subpoena Philippine telecom executives in Hawaii revived a dispute between American and Filipino telecom firms over termination rates, which are paid by foreign carriers to complete calls on the networks of local carriers.

The case stemmed from the complaints of US carriers AT&T and MCI Worldcom that Philippine carriers behave like a cartel when they uniformly raised termination rates a year ago.

Six local phone firms last year bore the brunt of a stop-payment order which the US Federal Communications Commission issued in March 2003 to US carriers.

The order was lifted after each of the six firms forged their own termination agreement with their US partners.

Farmers hope to export corn to parts of Asia

By Christine A. Gaylanc

FILIPINO corn producers this September are planning to export their products to South Korea and Malaysia to prevent domestic corn prices from taking a dive due to a surge in local corn production.

According to Roderico Bioco, Philippine Maize Federation Inc. (Philmaize) president, they are hoping to export about 10,000 to 20,000 metric tons of corn to other Asian countries.

"There is an expected 200,000 to 300,000 additional yellow corn to be produced in Northern Mindanao and Luzon," Bioco said. "We do not have (the) facilities to hold the produce so we would rather export these additional volumes ... This would be to our advantage."

The head of the 68,000-strong federation said that this move would enable farmers to get a fair price for their produce. The international price of corn is currently pegged at \$185 per metric ton, equivalent to a farm price of P8.50 to P9 per kilo.

Bioco added that the corn buyers from huge feed milling companies would have already filled up their corn requirements by the beginning of the third quarter with purchases made in Southern Mindanao.

Bioco said that there may not be enough buyers of corn in Northern Mindanao, adding that their facilities could not hold the excess supply.

He said that the excess supply could drag domestic prices down and breach the safe range of P8 to 9 per kilo.

"The buying-support price for corn of the National Food Authority is only at P6.50 per kilogram," said Bioco. "This is not enough."

He noted that the Department of Agriculture may not support the export venture since the government agency is concerned with the domestic supply.

"We would like to make sure that there is enough for the domestic requirement," according to Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr.

There are only a few takers of duty-free corn imported this month. Only 10,000 metric tons of corn were imported because of the high cost abroad.

The country produces about 4.5 million tons of corn each year. Domestic demand is pegged at about 5.5 million metric tons. To resolve the production shortfall, the country imports as much as 1 million tons of the commodity annually.

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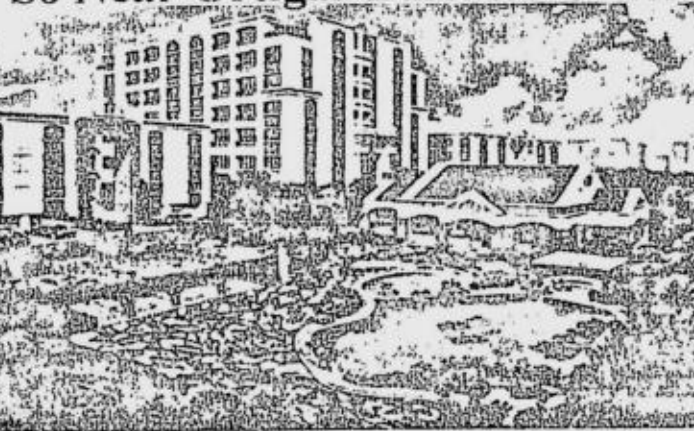
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AGONCILLO LOT 1 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 246sqm Floor Area 52sqm Lot 071 Bk 9 Along Barrio Rd., Subic Isaba. M - m - B - P - 269,000.00 M - m - B - P - 269,000.00	LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 55sqm Floor Area 82sqm Lot 6-8-1, Vilmon St. M - m - B - P - 658,000.00 M - m - B - P - 658,000.00	LOT 40 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 84sqm Lot 5907 Povit Rd., Brgy. Alupay M - m - B - P - 176,000.00 M - m - B - P - 176,000.00	LOT 60 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Lot 5994, Brgy San Juan M - m - B - P - 93,000.00 M - m - B - P - 93,000.00
ALTAGAG LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 433sqm Floor Area 64sqm Lot 752, Poblacion West M - m - B - P - 550,000.00 M - m - B - P - 550,000.00	LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 227sqm Floor Area 100sqm Lot 4330, Natl Rd., Brgy. Dayasan M - m - B - P - 678,000.00 M - m - B - P - 678,000.00	LOT 41 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 805sqm Lot 7714 Interior, Brgy. Sta Cruz M - m - B - P - 36,000.00 M - m - B - P - 36,000.00	LOT 61 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 3,320sqm Floor Area 110sqm Lot 2009, Along Barrio Rd. Tulo M - m - B - P - 1,467,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,467,000.00
BALAYAN LOT 3 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 2,548sqm Lot F-2231-D Along Barangay Road (Dambales St.) Brgy. 4 M - m - B - P - 1,147,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,147,000.00	LOT 21 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 267sqm Floor Area 150sqm Lot 6302, Natl Rd., Malinggani I M - m - B - P - 843,000.00 M - m - B - P - 843,000.00	LOT 42 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 140sqm Lot 7506, Along Brgy. Rd., Brgy. II M - m - B - P - 210,000.00 M - m - B - P - 210,000.00	LOT 62 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 168sqm Floor Area 85sqm Lot 5285, Buli M - m - B - P - 377,000.00 M - m - B - P - 377,000.00
BATANGAS CITY LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 817sqm Floor Area 90sqm Lot 2, Brgy. Pook M - m - B - P - 255,000.00 M - m - B - P - 255,000.00	LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 140sqm Floor Area 75sqm Natl Rd., Brgy. Dayasan M - m - B - P - 987,000.00 M - m - B - P - 987,000.00	LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 140sqm Lot 7506, Along Brgy. Rd., Brgy. II M - m - B - P - 210,000.00 M - m - B - P - 210,000.00	LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 144sqm Floor Area 144sqm Lot 3380, Provincial Road, Brgy. Saran M - m - B - P - 661,000.00 M - m - B - P - 661,000.00
LOT 5 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 1,162sqm Lot 3991-F-A, Dambales St. Brgy. 4 M - m - B - P - 4,358,000.00 M - m - B - P - 4,358,000.00	LOT 23 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 21, Cudmat St., Binubusan M - m - B - P - 337,000.00 M - m - B - P - 337,000.00	LOT 44 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 9,491sqm Lot 8291 Balaglasan II M - m - B - P - 754,000.00 M - m - B - P - 754,000.00	LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 89sqm Floor Area 121sqm Lot 2268, Along Brgy. Rd. Tulo M - m - B - P - 913,000.00 M - m - B - P - 913,000.00
LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 230sqm Floor Area 84sqm Lot 4-6 Bk 5, San Isidro M - m - B - P - 1,237,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,237,000.00	LOT 24 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 1641-B Prov. Rd., Brgy. San Pedro I, East M - m - B - P - 468,000.00 M - m - B - P - 468,000.00	LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 81sqm Floor Area 82sqm Lot 8728, Along Brgy. Rd., Balaglasan II M - m - B - P - 754,000.00 M - m - B - P - 754,000.00	LOT 65 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 707sqm Floor Area 121sqm Lot 2268, Along Brgy. Rd. Tulo M - m - B - P - 913,000.00 M - m - B - P - 913,000.00
LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 591sqm Floor Area 240sqm Lot 63 And 64 Along Subd. Rd., Area Subdivision, Kumintang Isaba M - m - B - P - 3,022,000.00 M - m - B - P - 3,022,000.00	LOT 25 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 230sqm Floor Area 84sqm Lot 4-6 Bk 5, San Isidro M - m - B - P - 1,237,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,237,000.00	LOT 46 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 189sqm Floor Area 149sqm Lot 4124, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00	LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00
LOT 8 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 11,623sqm Floor Area 72sqm Lot 4-6 Bk 5, San Isidro M - m - B - P - 804,000.00 M - m - B - P - 804,000.00	LOT 26 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 189sqm Floor Area 149sqm Lot 4124, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00	LOT 47 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00
LOT 9 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 250sqm Floor Area 80sqm Lot 13-F-1 Along Brgy. Road, Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 550,000.00 M - m - B - P - 550,000.00	LOT 27 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 68 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00
LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1715-A Brgy. Batanga M - m - B - P - 504,000.00 M - m - B - P - 504,000.00	LOT 28 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00
LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 80sqm Floor Area 80sqm Lot 59 Brgy. Rd. Lucena M - m - B - P - 325,000.00 M - m - B - P - 325,000.00	LOT 29 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 50 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 70 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00
LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1493sqm Floor Area 32sqm Lot 1724 & 7272 Along Prov. Rd., Baanga M - m - B - P - 440,000.00 M - m - B - P - 440,000.00	LOT 30 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 51 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00
LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 258sqm Floor Area 127sqm Lot 1715-A Brgy. Batanga M - m - B - P - 504,000.00 M - m - B - P - 504,000.00	LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1,128sqm Floor Area 207sqm Lot 1546, Int. Brgy. San Pedro West M - m - B - P - 872,000.00 M - m - B - P - 872,000.00	LOT 52 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 445sqm Lot 156 Bk 3 Maragan St. M - m - B - P - 635,000.00 M - m - B - P - 635,000.00	LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 503sqm Floor Area 184sqm Lot 14932, Brgy. Rd. Bang East M - m - B - P - 531,000.00 M - m - B - P - 531,000.00
LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 758sqm Floor Area 112sqm Lot 1939, Natl. Rd. Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 854,000.00 M - m - B - P - 854,000.00	LOT 32 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 445sqm Lot 3 Bk 14, Oliva Subd. M - m - B - P - 379,000.00 M - m - B - P - 379,000.00	LOT 53 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 445sqm Lot 156 Bk 3 Maragan St. M - m - B - P - 635,000.00 M - m - B - P - 635,000.00	LOT 73 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 142sqm Lot 881-A, Brgy. Bagumbayan M - m - B - P - 75,000.00 M - m - B - P - 75,000.00
LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 85sqm Floor Area 105sqm Lot 10113, Alena St. M - m - B - P - 1,584,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,584,000.00	LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 309sqm Floor Area 111sqm Lot 1031-B P. Rnora St. M - m - B - P - 986,000.00 M - m - B - P - 986,000.00	LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 445sqm Lot 156 Bk 3 Maragan St. M - m - B - P - 635,000.00 M - m - B - P - 635,000.00	LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1250sqm Floor Area 144sqm Lot 7 Bk 3, Malinggani Cmpl. Sam M - m - B - P - 977,000.00 M - m - B - P - 977,000.00
LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 87sqm Floor Area 105sqm Lot 10113, Alena St. M - m - B - P - 1,584,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,584,000.00	LOT 34 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 230sqm Lot 555-C-2 Along Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 137,000.00 M - m - B - P - 137,000.00	LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 275sqm Floor Area 209sqm Lot 1688 Brgy. Calayagan M - m - B - P - 1,205,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,205,000.00	LOT 75 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 906sqm Floor Area 134sqm Lot 3295, Brgy. Brg. Sambal M - m - B - P - 774,000.00 M - m - B - P - 774,000.00
LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 105sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 116 Vanzetta St. Wraa M - m - B - P - 603,000.00 M - m - B - P - 603,000.00	LOT 35 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 77sqm Lot 855-C-1 Subd. Rd. & Povit Rd., Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 222,000.00 M - m - B - P - 222,000.00	LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Floor Area 55sqm Lot 522, Along Bantay Rd., Poblacion III M - m - B - P - 433,000.00 M - m - B - P - 433,000.00	LOT 76 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 295sqm Floor Area 45sqm Lot 6732-C Interior Brgy. Suple M - m - B - P - 78,000.00 M - m - B - P - 78,000.00
LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1996sqm Floor Area 63sqm Lot 71, Along Barrio Rd. Ayala-Iyao M - m - B - P - 634,000.00 M - m - B - P - 634,000.00	LOT 36 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 230sqm Lot 855-C-2 Along Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 137,000.00 M - m - B - P - 137,000.00	LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 367sqm Floor Area 55sqm Lot 1685-B Brgy. Calayagan M - m - B - P - 528,000.00 M - m - B - P - 528,000.00	LOT 77 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 163sqm Lot 1598-C, Brgy. Bantay West M - m - B - P - 879,000.00 M - m - B - P - 879,000.00
LOT 19 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1996sqm Floor Area 63sqm Lot 71, Along Barrio Rd. Ayala-Iyao M - m - B - P - 634,000.00 M - m - B - P - 634,000.00	LOT 37 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 373sqm Lot 855-C-1 Subd. Rd. & Povit Rd., Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 222,000.00 M - m - B - P - 222,000.00	LOT 58 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 206sqm Floor Area 84sqm Lot 1879, National Road, Bk. Antofito M - m - B - P - 578,000.00 M - m - B - P - 578,000.00	LOT 78 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 270sqm Floor Area 200sqm Lot 7 Bk 3, Malinggani Cmpl. Sam M - m - B - P - 977,000.00 M - m - B - P - 977,000.00
LOT 20 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 227sqm Floor Area 100sqm Lot 4330, Natl Rd., Brgy. Dayasan M - m - B - P - 678,000.00 M - m - B - P - 678,000.00	LOT 38 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 230sqm Lot 855-C-2 Along Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 137,000.00 M - m - B - P - 137,000.00	LOT 59 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 367sqm Floor Area 55sqm Lot 1685-B Brgy. Calayagan M - m - B - P - 528,000.00 M - m - B - P - 528,000.00	LOT 79 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 21 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 267sqm Floor Area 150sqm Lot 6302, Natl Rd., Malinggani I M - m - B - P - 843,000.00 M - m - B - P - 843,000.00	LOT 39 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 230sqm Lot 855-C-2 Along Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bantay M - m - B - P - 137,000.00 M - m - B - P - 137,000.00	LOT 60 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 367sqm Floor Area 55sqm Lot 1685-B Brgy. Calayagan M - m - B - P - 528,000.00 M - m - B - P - 528,000.00	LOT 80 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 140sqm Floor Area 75sqm Natl Rd., Brgy. Dayasan M - m - B - P - 987,000.00 M - m - B - P - 987,000.00	LOT 40 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 84sqm Lot 5907 Povit Rd., Brgy. Alupay M - m - B - P - 176,000.00 M - m - B - P - 176,000.00	LOT 61 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 3,320sqm Floor Area 110sqm Lot 2009, Along Barrio Rd. Tulo M - m - B - P - 1,467,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,467,000.00	LOT 81 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 23 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 21, Cudmat St., Binubusan M - m - B - P - 337,000.00 M - m - B - P - 337,000.00	LOT 41 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 805sqm Lot 7714 Interior, Brgy. Sta Cruz M - m - B - P - 36,000.00 M - m - B - P - 36,000.00	LOT 62 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 168sqm Floor Area 85sqm Lot 5285, Buli M - m - B - P - 377,000.00 M - m - B - P - 377,000.00	LOT 82 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 24 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 1641-B Prov. Rd., Brgy. San Pedro I, East M - m - B - P - 468,000.00 M - m - B - P - 468,000.00	LOT 42 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 140sqm Lot 7506, Along Brgy. Rd., Brgy. II M - m - B - P - 210,000.00 M - m - B - P - 210,000.00	LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 144sqm Floor Area 144sqm Lot 3380, Provincial Road, Brgy. Saran M - m - B - P - 661,000.00 M - m - B - P - 661,000.00	LOT 83 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 25 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 230sqm Floor Area 84sqm Lot 4-6 Bk 5, San Isidro M - m - B - P - 1,237,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,237,000.00	LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 140sqm Lot 7506, Along Brgy. Rd., Brgy. II M - m - B - P - 210,000.00 M - m - B - P - 210,000.00	LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 89sqm Floor Area 121sqm Lot 2268, Along Brgy. Rd. Tulo M - m - B - P - 913,000.00 M - m - B - P - 913,000.00	LOT 84 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 26 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 189sqm Floor Area 149sqm Lot 4124, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00	LOT 44 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 9,491sqm Lot 8291 Balaglasan II M - m - B - P - 754,000.00 M - m - B - P - 754,000.00	LOT 65 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 707sqm Floor Area 121sqm Lot 2268, Along Brgy. Rd. Tulo M - m - B - P - 913,000.00 M - m - B - P - 913,000.00	LOT 85 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 27 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 81sqm Floor Area 82sqm Lot 8728, Along Brgy. Rd., Balaglasan II M - m - B - P - 754,000.00 M - m - B - P - 754,000.00	LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00	LOT 86 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 28 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 46 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 189sqm Floor Area 149sqm Lot 4124, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00 M - m - B - P - 1,213,000.00	LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00	LOT 87 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 29 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 47 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 68 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00	LOT 88 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 30 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 335sqm Floor Area 45sqm C.H. Recto St., Poblacion M - m - B - P - 423,000.00 M - m - B - P - 423,000.00	LOT 89 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 1,128sqm Floor Area 207sqm Lot 1546, Int. Brgy. San Pedro West M - m - B - P - 872,000.00 M - m - B - P - 872,000.00	LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMT Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 70 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 90 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 200sqm Floor Area 120sqm Lot 2014-A, Brgy. Rd. Tungk M - m - B - P - 999,000.00 M - m - B - P - 999,000.00
LOT 32 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 445sqm Lot 3 Bk 14, Oliva Subd. M - m - B - P - 379,000.00 M - m - B - P - 379,000.00	LOT 50 - LOT ONLY Lot Area 330sqm Lot 159, J.P. Laurel Natl Highway, Brgy. Sanlagi M - m - B - P - 187,000.00 M - m - B - P - 187,000.00	LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMT	

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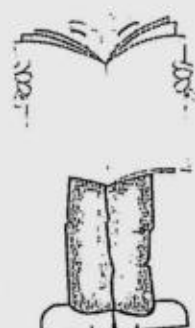
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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of CORPORATE INFORMATION SOLUTIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC. (the "Corporation") which shortened the term of its corporate existence to end on April 30, 2004 and hereby dissolving the said corporation on said date, has been approved by its Board of Directors and shareholders at duly constituted meetings both held on March 2, 2004.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same at the Corporation's principal place of business located at the Computer Services Building, Meralco Center, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) RAUL G. CORALDE
Corporate Secretary

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNOC Energy Companies Bldg., Meralco Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MPO Tel. no. 893-6001/1320

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

Northern Negros Geothermal Project

Date: March 26, 2004
Loan Agreement No.: PH-P176
Contract No.: EDC 04-005

- The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, hereinafter called PNOC-EDC has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, hereinafter referred to as JBIC, in the amount of Fourteen Billion Four Hundred Sixty Million Japanese Yen (¥14,460,000,000) towards the cost of the NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for the DETAILED ENGINEERING, DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT - FLUID COLLECTION AND RE-INJECTION SYSTEM. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds.
- The Eligibility Documents and the Bid Documents shall be available to contractors starting April 14, 2004 from the Contracts Administration Group c/o I.M. Corcuera upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) Philippine currency, or US Dollar One Hundred Thirty (US\$130.00) per bid document in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses.
- For purposes of clarifying certain issues, interested bidders are invited to the pre-bid conference to be held on April 29, 2004, at the Northern Negros Geothermal Project Base Camp Conference Room in Brgy. Malim, Bago City, Negros Occidental.
- The two (2) stage bidding procedure shall be employed. For the first stage, bidders shall submit their respective Letter of Intent, sealed Application for Eligibility and the Initial Technical Proposal in three (3) sets to the Contracts Administration Group, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines not later than 2:00 p.m. on May 28, 2004. The bidders' Application for Eligibility and the Initial Technical Proposal shall be evaluated and bidders who are eligible to bid will be notified by PNOC-EDC.
- For the second stage, eligible bidders shall be required to submit their Final Technical Proposal, and Financial Proposal in two separate sealed envelopes. All bids submitted by eligible bidders must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a surety bond, certified check, bank draft, standby letter of credit or bank guarantee secured from a bank, local or foreign, acceptable to PNOC-EDC which shall be callable on demand for an amount of at least Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P850,000.00). The bid security must be valid for a period of 150 days reckoned from the date of bid opening, and must be delivered to:

Contracts Award Committee
PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines

At or before 2:00 p.m. on May 28, 2004. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representative who choose to attend.

- PNOC-EDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders on the ground of PNOC-EDC's action.
- DELIVERY SCHEDULE - The Goods under this invitation are required, to be delivered within 180 days upon receipt of Letter of Credit. No credit will be given to earlier deliveries and bids offering delivery beyond 180 days will be treated as non-responsive.

The Goods are considered to be delivered when all the items specified in the Contract have arrived at Manila Port or at any other location or port in the Philippines mutually agreed upon by the Bidder/Supplier and PNOC-EDC. Hence, the 180 day delivery period is inclusive of shipping time.

(PDI-April 21, 2004)

BAC Chairman

COMELEC HOTLINES

525-9345
525-9296
525-9295
525-9294
525-9301
525-9302
525-9334
525-9335

POEA

24-HR
HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

**THE FIRST PHILIPPINE
DRAGON CUP**

Upper Room Productions will be staging The First Dragon Cup this April 24 & 25 at the Baywalk Area, Roxas Boulevard, the said event will feature teams from various universities and corporations, this event aims to highlight local and international achievements gained by Philippine teams in this highly competitive and energetic sport.

**WOW! Pinoy Caravan '04 Rolls on April 26**

IT'S summer time! Here's for real fun and adventure.

Can you tour the entire Philippine archipelago in one sweep - on wheels?

Yes! Now you can - with the launching of WOW! Pinoy Caravan '04, a non-partisan motored of a projected hundred vehicles that will go on a sightseeing tour of the entire archipelago - Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao - for 40 days.

The caravan comprises three legs. The first leg will sweep through Northern Luzon in 11 days. The second leg will island-hop southwards through Western Visayas all the way to Davao City, and the last leg brings the caravan back to Manila via the Eastern Visayas and Bicol Region, both in 14 days each. Participants may opt to join one leg, a combination (or even just a segment of a leg), or the entire motored.

This adventure is made even more unique with the incredible experience of a basket of at least 18 popular festivals along the route.

Thrill-seekers will be delighted that the Jaycees and local government of Dipolog City will showcase their ecotourism and set-up the Tyrolean crossing (between two crests through a rope) just for participants as their valued guests. White water rafting and tubing are options in the first and second legs.

There will be varied opportunities for close-up encounters with wildlife including the rare Philippine eagle and waling-waling orchids in Davao; popular butanding in Donsol, Sorsogon with options for whale and dolphin watching in Bais City; tamaraw in Mindoro; tarsier in

Bohol; and tabios (the smallest fish in the world) at Lake Buhi in Iriga.

Nature lovers will have their breaths taken by the majestic panorama at the Banaue Rice Terraces and the Mayon Resthouse at the famous Mayon Volcano, where one can gaze at the clouds beneath!

The Philippine Jaycees, a non-political, non-profit civic organization, has adopted this as a national project, in partnership and close collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Department of Transportation and Communications, and the Department of Trade and Industry. Among others, the Project is designed to take the motoring tourists face to face with the country's choicest heritage, unique attractions and scenic wonders - all in one summer time.

This summer spectacle aims to promote ecotourism, domestic travel and the local trade and industries of its exciting destinations.

Preparations are now underway for the launchings of the caravan on April 26, 2004. Enthusiastic response from the public has been reported by the organizers, with even foreigners and balikbayans signing on to join the tour. The organizers expect big discounts in travel costs for the participants accruing from the benefits of group travel.

The budgetary estimated cost to join is as low as an unbelievable P800 per head per day, inclusive of hotel accommodations, 3 meals a day, and average gas or diesel consumption. Should one opt to join those who prefer to take pre-arranged rides by van, coaster or tourist

bus, the cost is around P1,200 per head per day, to include vehicle rental. If one opts instead to pitch tent as pre-arranged and one of the event's numerous highlights, the cost becomes much less.

The tour is envisioned to give a boost to the government's ecotourism program. It will also showcase the government's "Nautical Highway" project that features island-hopping sea crossings aboard RORO (Roll on, Roll off) ferries.

This amazing project has a social dimension too. This heaping load of fun, adventure, excitement, and thrills are offered by its principal beneficiary, the Social Housing Movement, Inc. - an NGO dedicated to housing for the poor.

The local chapters of the Philippine Jaycees will undertake socio-economic community development programs during the stay of the caravan. Medical missions are being finalized for the benefit of the targeted blighted communities at selected stopovers.

Be part of this Caravan of such magnitude and scope of activities - the first of its kind in the country. Haul in the entire family for that bonding on wheels on daytime, and inside the tent at night, or get the barkada and classmates together for the ride of a lifetime this summer time.

Please register on or before April 22. Hop in! This is your one chance to see the Philippines in such grand perspective at very affordable rates. Bye na tayol!

For more information, call 927-1316, 926-8072, 928-6935, 927-7611; faxphone: 920-9608; Cell: 09169 312-6418; e-mail: wowpinoycaravan04@yahoo.com, info@wowpinoycaravan04.com or visit www.wowpinoycaravan04.com

VICTORIAS

MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, announces that it will conduct a re-bidding for the design, installation and commissioning of two (2) units WET GAS SCRUBBER TYPE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT (APCE). It wishes to invite interested corporations, local or foreign to pre-qualify and to bid for this project.

Interested bidders should submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- SEC/DTI Registration
- Articles of Incorporation
- Latest Business License/Permit
- Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last 2 years
- Sworn Certification showing that the supplier's or his principal's company has a paid-up capitalization of at least P50 million
- An original copy of certification authenticated by the Philippine Embassy that the local supplier is the authorized representative of his foreign principal
- Certification from the end-user/vendee that the supplier or his principal had designed, installed and commissioned a wet gas scrubber type APCE for bagasse-fired boiler with flue gas volumetric rate of at least 3,000 actual cubic meters per minute. The certification should show the capacity of the bagasse-fired boiler, volumetric flow rate of flue gas, particulate content before and after the wet gas scrubber, separation efficiency of the wet gas scrubber, year built and commissioned and duly signed by the end-user/vendee. It should also include the contact person, fax and telephone number and e-mail address.

VMC will not accept a certification submitted for a track record or experience of an external consultant who is hired by the supplier. It must be clearly established that the supplier's or the principal's company and not the external consultant hired, has the full experience of designing, installing, and commissioning the wet gas scrubber type APCE.

- Certification of compliance with the government standards on particulate content of source emission.

Deadline of submission of documents has been extended until May 15, 2004. Only bidders who are able to meet the pre-qualification requirements will be notified to attend the pre-bidding technical conference, the date and venue of which will be announced later. The technical parameters and terms of reference for the design of the wet gas scrubber type APCE will be given during the pre-bidding technical conference.

The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of cashier's/manager's check payable to Victorias Milling Company, Inc.

For further inquiries, please contact Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador or Ramon P. Pun-an at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers (034) 399-3696 to 97, (034) 399-3699 or (local) 2309, and Mr. Ping Abad at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers (02)890-5256 and (02)890-7062. For technical inquiries, please contact Messrs. Roy C. Hautea, Arnel J. Amparo and Remegio S. Soriano at tel. Nos. (034) 399-3389 and (034) 399-2708.

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) TERESITA V. ILAGAN
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

**PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO BID**

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for sale through public bidding, on an "as-is-where-is" basis the following National Government (NG)/National Power Corporation (NPC) properties:

LOT/DESCRIPTION		INDICATIVE PRICE
LOT A	Vacant/Parking Lot with an area of 2,798 square meters located at Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Tindalo St., Makati City	P 328,765,000
LOT B	Vacant/Parking Lot with an area of 437 square meters located at Amorsolo corner dela Rosa Sts., Makati City	29,497,500

Sealed bids will be received on Tuesday, May 25, 2004 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and immediately thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P2,500.00.

In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, the PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the subject assets.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 818-4733.

(PDI-April 21, 22 & 23, 2004)



PHILIPPINES
Welcomes
Participants to the
Island Caravan
The Nautical Highway Adventure

"The caravan now begins" declares DOT Secretary Obet Pagdanganan during the send off ceremonies of the trailblazing "Island Caravan: The Nautical Highway Adventure" which is bringing participants all the way to Mindoro and Boracay using combined land and sea transport. The Island Caravan is sponsored by the Department of Tourism and organized by the Island Caravan Consortium and Skoal Advertising.

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Monday to Sunday
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Day before publication

OBITUARIES

Amalia Valencia Sarabia

has peacefully joined her Creator
on April 17, 2004 at the age of 79.

Her loving husband Jesus (†)
children Christine "Bing Bing" and Quinito Heras,
Melchor Sarabia, Tima and Bitay Lacson, Melinda "Baby"
and Danny Morales, Eduardo and Mimi Sarabia,
Cynthia "Titchie" Sarabia, grandchildren Kaan and
Flo Arkin; Deniz Arkin; RJ Lacson; Patrick and Anne
Lacson; Carla, Teepee and Ria Lacson; Julia, Ina and
Diego Morales; Chelsea Sarabia; and great granddaughter
Bea Lacson, request the pious readers to pray for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City. Interment will be on
Thursday, April 22, 2004 at Bacolod Memorial Park after the
8:00 a.m. Mass at Redemptorist Church.

Elisa de Castro Narvaez

of Imus, Cavite

May 22, 1911 - April 17, 2004

Survived by loving children Antonio & wife Mercedes Jacinto of
Delaware, USA, Rogelio & wife Dercy Malabanan of Imus, Cavite,
Emma & husband Roberto Aquino of Tennessee, USA, Elenita &
husband Prudencio "Toots" Febre of Texas, USA, Pilar & husband
Reynaldo Cifra (†) of Texas, USA and her grandchildren, great-
grandchildren & other relatives & friends request the pious readers to
pray for her eternal peace & happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Bantayan, Imus,
Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 24, 2004 at Imus Cemetery
after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Imus Cathedral Church.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels
nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any
powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that
is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

We remember dearly

CARLOS MIGUEL B. PALANCA

ON HIS 1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL 22, 2004

Masses will be offered tomorrow,
April 22, 2004 at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish 7:30 a.m.
Forbes Park, Makati
San Isidro Parish 6:00 a.m.
Taft Avenue, Manila
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish 7:30 a.m.
Ermita, Manila
Malate Church 7:00 a.m.
Remedios, Malate, Manila
St. James the Great Parish 6:20 a.m.
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa, M.M.

WE, HIS FAMILY, REQUEST RELATIVES,
FRIENDS AND PIOUS READERS TO JOIN US
IN PRAYER FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE
OF HIS SOUL.

CLASSIFIEDS

Second Death Anniversary
We Remember
JULIA ARICAYOS-BARANGAN
January 28, 1933 - April 21, 2002

for her vision, quiet concern and tender loving care. For Julie's
Second Anniversary of Rebirth to Eternal Life, we ask the pious
readers and friends to pray as we offer holy masses for the
eternal repose of her soul today, April 21:

Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church 6:00 AM
Karangalan Village, Pasig City
Saint Joseph Shrine 6:15 AM
Project 3, Quezon City
Christ the King Church 6:00 AM
Project 7, Quezon City
Ray, Juliet, Annie, Cristy, Jethro, Jabez, Josiah,
relatives and friends

"For
God so
loved
the
World,
that He
gave us
His only
begotten
Son,
that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall
not
perish
but
have
Everlas-
ting
life."

—John 3:16

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
• Copy of Death Certificate
• Any identification
document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

Duration: November 8, 2003 - May 22, 2004
Per DTI-NGR Permit NO. 3355, Series of 2003



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Central

SM MEGAMALL
6331901

- 1 HELLBOY
- 2 TAKING LIVES
- 3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 4 PAYCHECK
- 5 PETER PAN
- 6 TWISTED
- 7 ACACIA
- 8 50 FIRST DATES
- 9 BOOBITA ROSE
- 10 HELLBOY
- 11 SPARTAN
- 12 CHECK INN

CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

- 1 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
- 2 SCOOBY DOO 2
- 3 TAKING LIVES
- 4 PAYCHECK
- 5 SPARTAN
- 6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 7 HELLBOY
- 8 PETER PAN
- 9 BOOBITA ROSE
- 10 ACACIA
- 11 UNINVITED
- 12 CHECK INN

CITY MANILA
5239240

- 1 SPARTAN
- 2 TAKING LIVES
- 3 TWISTED
- 4 HELLBOY
- 5 PETER PAN
- 6 PAYCHECK
- 7 CHECK INN
- 8 ACACIA
- 9 BOOBITA ROSE
- 10 50 FIRST DATES
- 11 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 12 HOUSE OF THE DEAD

CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

- 1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 2 PETER PAN
- 3 BOOBITA ROSE
- 4 ACACIA
- 5 SPARTAN
- 6 TAKING LIVES
- 7 HELLBOY
- 8 PAYCHECK

CITY STA. MESA
7149532 • 7181416

- 1 BOOBITA ROSE
- 2 TAKING LIVES
- 3 HELLBOY
- 4 PAYCHECK
- 5 SPARTAN
- 6 ACACIA
- 7 PETER PAN
- 8 50 FIRST DATES
- 9 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 10 CHECK INN

CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

- 1 HELLBOY
- 2 SPARTAN
- 3 BOOBITA ROSE
- 4 CHECK INN

North

CITY MARILAO
(644) 933 2013 to 17

- 1 HELLBOY
- 2 PETER PAN
- 3 BOOBITA ROSE
- 4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

- 1 HELL BOY
- 2 TAKING LIVES
- 3 PAYCHECK
- 4 KARIBAL
- 5 HIGHWAYMEN
- 6 BOOBITA ROSE

CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4484505

- 1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 2 BONE SNATCHER
- 3 BOOBITA ROSE
- 4 HELLBOY

South

CITY LAS PIÑAS
8066888

- 1 ACACIA
- 2 PETER PAN
- 3 HELL BOY
- 4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 5 TAKING LIVES
- 6 SCOOBY DOO 2
- 7 BOOBITA ROSE
- 8 SPARTAN
- 9 PAYCHECK
- 10 CHECK INN

CITY BICUTAN
7783855

- 1 HELLBOY
- 2 BOOBITA ROSE
- 3 SPARTAN
- 4 PAYCHECK

SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975

- 1 BOOBITA ROSE
- 2 SPARTAN
- 3 HELLBOY
- 4 PAYCHECK

CITY BACOR
(046) 4173688

- 1 ACACIA
- 2 PETER PAN
- 3 SPARTAN
- 4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 5 HELL BOY
- 6 BOOBITA ROSE
- 7 PAYCHECK
- 8 CHECK INN

CITY LUCENA
(042) 7100977-80

- 1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 3 HIDALGO
- 4 BOOBITA ROSE

Visayas & Mindanao

CITY CEBU
(032) 2313876

- 1 DON'T TEMPT ME
- 2 TAKING LIVES
- 3 50 FIRST DATES
- 4 LOVE ACTUALLY
- 5 GRUDGE 2
- 6 SORUM
- 7 BOOBITA ROSE
- 8 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CITY ILOILO
(033) 3289422

- 1 BOOBITA ROSE
- 2 RESERVED
- 3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 4 50 FIRST DATES
- 5 HIDALGO
- 6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 7 RESERVED
- 8 HOUSE OF THE DEAD

CITY DAVAO
(082) 2876998

- 1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 2 THE GRUDGE 2
- 3 BOOBITA ROSE
- 4 50 FIRST DATES
- 5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
- 6 TAKING LIVES

CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8992884

- 1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
- 2 GRUDGE 2
- 3 50 FIRST DATES
- 4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1

HELLBOY
12:10 FS / 12:40 MF /
3:15 / 5:50 / 8:25 / 10:30
LFS / 11:00 LMF /
1:05 END

2

PAYCHECK
12:10 FS / 12:40 MF / 3:15 /
5:50 / 8:25 / 10:25 LFS /
11:00 LMF / 1:00 END

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HELLBOY

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 SPARTAN | 3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST | 4 PAYCHECK |
| 5 HELLBOY | 6 TAKING LIVES | 7 PETER PAN |
| 8 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 9 TWISTED | 10 50 FIRST DATES |

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HELLBOY

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 HELLBOY | 2 HELLBOY | 3 TAKING LIVES | 4 SPARTAN |
| 5 PETER PAN | 6 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 7 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST | |

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 SPARTAN | 2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST | 3 TAKING LIVES | 4 PETER PAN | 5 HELLBOY |
| 6 CHECK-IN | 7 PAYCHECK | 8 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | | |

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW
935-3229 / 31

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1 HELLBOY | 2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST | 3 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 4 TAKING LIVES | 5 SPARTAN |
| 6 PAYCHECK | 7 PETER PAN | 8 THE UNINVITED | | |

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 CHECK-IN | 2 HELLBOY | 3 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST |
|------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|

Big Supercenter CAINTA
240-4661

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 HELLBOY | 2 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 3 CHECK-IN | 4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|-----------------------------|

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA
Laguna (049) 837-0907

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST | 2 HELLBOY | 3 KARIBAL | 4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 5 HIGHWAYMEN |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|

Big R Supercenter LIPA
757-3664 / 312-5870

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------|
| 1 PAYCHECK | 2 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 3 PETER PAN | 4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD | 5 ACACIA |
|------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------|

Big R Supercenter DASMARINAS
852-2125

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 HELLBOY | 2 PAYCHECK | 3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST | 4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 5 HELLBOY |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
875-1927 / 961-5270

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 HIGHWAYMEN | 2 TAKING LIVES | 3 KARIBAL | 4 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB | 5 HELLBOY | 6 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN NG LAUGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LESEN NG CROCODILE

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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIGAYA / NANABIK
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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CINEMA-2	CHECK IN
CINEMA-3	TWISTED
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-6	HIGHMARE
CINEMA-7	ACACIA
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPARTAN
CINEMA-12	PETER PAN
CINEMA-14	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-15	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

LORES

CINEMA-2	SEXUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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(LAS PINAS)	MUNDALU
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	PETER PAN
CINEMA-4	SCOOBY DOO 2

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6 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TAKING LIVES
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HELLBOY
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3 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
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3	HELLBOY 11:20, 2:00, 4:40 7:20, 10:00 PG-13
4	PETER PAN 11:20, 1:40, 4:00 6:20, 8:40, 10:55 GP

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PAYCHECK PG13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	PETER PAN GP 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 7:25, 9:50	HELLBOY PG13 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

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PEOPLE *at* WORK

'Gray Matters' matters in business

"Gray Matters"

By Bob Rosner, Allan Halcrow, John Lavin
New Jersey, USA: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
2004, 336 pages

By Regina Galang Reyes

BOB Rosner is back with another innovative book on how to survive at work. After the success of "Working Wounded" (Warner Books, Inc. 1998), which shot him to international popularity, followed by another bestseller, "The Boss's Survival Guide" (McGraw-Hill 2001), Rosner has again captured the imagination of readers worldwide with his latest book, "Gray Matters: Use Ours, Use Yours" (John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2003). This time, he has teamed up with Allan Halcrow, a writer, consultant and partner in WorkPositive, a training and consulting firm that focuses on interpersonal skills in the workplace, and John Lavin, an artist based in Seattle, Washington, USA. They have come up with a unique book that packs the hard stuff that business success is made of with the soft packaging—of would you believe—cartoon characters.

Fully imagined

Like J. K. Rowling, author of the hugely popular Harry Potter books, Rosner, Halcrow and Lavin have created a "a fully imagined world" of



BOB ROSNER POI FILE PHOTO

today's workplace. However, unlike Rowling, who deals purely with magical fiction, Gray Matters' authors present a fictional world that reflects workplace reality so accurately that people in the corporate world can't help but wince. The situations faced by their comic characters are so real that it hurts. But the good thing about the book is that the authors are able to provide a truly real happy ending to the story, albeit achieved through smart, hard work.

The first few pages of the book swiftly bring the reader to the world of meek and mild Gray Blanderson, a product engineer of Global Gadget. Due to reorganization, his department, which used to produce gadgets for large and small home appliances, was stripped of responsibility for the large home appliances market and left with just the small appliance market. The department faces closure unless they increase Global's market share in that area and turn in a profit. The turnaround is a tough

challenge—competitors are waiting in the wings to cut their throats and the leadership in the department does not measure up to the needs of the situation. Gray is forced to decide whether to fill the vacuum in leadership, albeit informally, or face a bleak future of unemployment.

Organizational dynamics

Gray's coworkers in the story—group "adviser" Consuelo Sanchez, hotshot sales star Rick Newman, finance man Addison Applebaum III, creative marketing guy Sherman Fox, administrative assistant Noreen St. Mary, logistics man Juan del Toro, intern Barbie Falwell, big boss Virginia Edgarly, and major client Rudy "Buzz" Bravado—all bring their own quirky personalities, competencies and "incompetencies" that result in organizational dynamics that make Gray's self-assigned role of hero either difficult or easy.

As Gray and his team grapples with one problem after another in unfamiliar territory in their fight for survival, they learn valuable lessons in handling change, walking their talk, financial management, office politics, understanding customers, mastering the sales process, building relationships and innovation. They commit the "seven deadly workplace sins" but learn how to repent for these sins and make up for their mistakes.

Significantly, the authors have chosen to focus on only certain areas

in business operations—those that obviously they believe to be the most critical areas for success in running a business today and divided the book accordingly. Part one deals with "how business works" and discusses change, walk your talk, dollars and sense, politics, customers and relationships. The larger portion of the book, which is part two, deals with sales and the various steps in selling, underlining the much-labored point that sales is really the lifeblood of any business. The third portion of the book focuses mainly on attitudinal and behavioral issues and identifies the "seven deadly workplace sins" and how one should avoid them. The last and fourth portion of the book tackles innovation.

Critical business areas

For many, the content of the book may be heavy stuff. It contains material large enough for a complete MBA course. It also feels "heavy" in that the story contains enough drama for a season of convoluted workplace soap opera. Fortunately, the authors ingeniously tell the story through comic strips that lighten the reading and make the bitter lessons easier to swallow. Each chapter starts with a summary of lessons from experiences of the characters. This is followed by comic strips that show the various goings-on in the department. The authors thoughtfully end the chapter with a section called "food for thought" that enables the

reader to analyze and summarize the lessons contained in a particular chapter. Sometimes, a questionnaire pops up to help the reader remember and fill in the blanks in his readings.

Business storms

Undoubtedly, Gray Matters is a book that many readers can relate to. With global and local storms buffeting companies, there is no longer any company that can offer employees absolute security of employment. Employees can no longer be complacent in their comfy corporate offices content that management will do all the work necessary for the company's survival and growth. Gray's predicament is the Workplace Everyman's predicament. And Gray's response—the proactive kind—is the response that any professional committed to his own survival and that of his company's should take.

Many lessons can be learned from Gray and his ragtag team, the most important lesson of which is that "gray matters" really do matter,

GRAY MATTERS

The Workplace Survival Guide



Bob Rosner Allan Halcrow John Lavin

meaning, people at work have got to be thinking, fully aware beings putting every ounce of intelligence to work for and at work. And equally important, that "Gray," who is the symbol for the human resources of a company, really does matter, meaning, proactive, thinking people in the workplace can tilt the balance in favor of the organization's survival and growth. If the reader gets these lessons from the book, then, perhaps, "Gray Matters," the book, will matter for everyone.

(For more information on the book, visit www.GrayMattersBook.com.)

Can undergraduate with work experience find a job?

By Cynthia Mamon

President and Managing Director
Sun Microsystems Philippines, Inc.

HI, I just wanted to know my chances in getting hired again. You see, I've recently lost my job in a big corporation after almost five years of hard work. In spite of my being an undergraduate, I was able to perform my job related to my unfinished course. But because something happened, I have been jobless for two months now, I am having difficulty getting hired. Employers consider me either overqualified because of my experience or under-qualified because of the lack of the required degree or age. I've tried applying for positions requiring degrees, hoping the company would consider my experiences. I've also submitted and even got interviewed (until the final interview) to positions that require only high school diploma or some college. But in both instances, I have not been successful. I've tried updating my resume, highlighting my skills and experiences. Before an interview, I would do my research about the company and practice on my answers to possible questions.

I want to go back to school but I can't afford it without any job. I was not able to continue it when I still had my job because of schedule and insufficient funds. I used the money I was earning for my two kids' education. I am a single mom who is unlikely to

get scholarships either, although I have tried to search for institutions that would offer me one.

S.P

I empathize with you with regard to the difficulties in finding a job. I don't know how young you are and so I don't know if it will be difficult to hire you because of age. I also do not know your basic qualifications—whether they are administrative or technical but I would imagine that your advantage is your work experience as you have worked for five years.

If you can send your bio-data, maybe we can try to place you with some information technology companies if there are openings but I can only assume you have tried these online recruitment companies and that you would have submitted your bio-data to almost all of them. I would have wanted to know also your other talents and skills (aside from office skills) as sometimes our artistic talent, skills in handicrafts/cooking and other hobbies can also give us the opportunity for other employment or business enterprises. As you can see, there is a growing business in cottage industries or personalized selling of home-made products (like beads, cooked and baked products, etc.)

Other opportunities

You should also try to reconnect with your business associates, contacts and friends that you have made during your employment, as they may be able to refer to you employ-

ASK YOUR CEO



ment opportunities, business contacts and other selling opportunities. Other selling opportunities may be in the insurance industry, real estate or personal selling for cosmetics and other products for personal or home use. In our office building is Philamlife and I see many trainees here for insurance agents. I also notice a growing number of agents involved in network marketing and so you can also try them. Be sure though that you only consider the credible ones as there are some who are not credible.

In the information technology, many of our graduates get employed as a call center agent/BPO specialist. With your five-year experience, I am assuming you do have good communication skills and so you may also be considered, maybe not as a new call center agent, but may be tapped as a project team leader supervising a group or groups of call center agents/BPO specialists.

Some tips

I must admit it is quite hard to give you advice as I do not know your strengths, weaknesses, talents and skills. And so I can only share the following:

1. Know yourself—what do you really want to do? Achieve?

2. Assess your talents, skills and strengths and weaknesses?

3. Make an inventory of your business associates, contacts, friends, relatives and approach them as they may be able to help you or refer you to places, events, people who will be the answer to your employment concern.

4. Observe what you have around you—in your residence, in your community. Is there a new store being constructed? A new call center? A new restaurant, a new school, church? Whatever it is, try to explore opportunities. There are also job opportunities in non-government organizations (NGOs), community or church organizations. There may also be factories (garment, manufacturing), which may have a need for contractual/part-time or a project-based employment. For garment factories sometimes they subcontract to others who sew specific parts of the product and you are paid on what you have sewn, assembled or packaged.

5. Try to explore what you can do from home so you can balance work and parenting. Can you be a tutor? Do you do needlecraft—crochet, cross stitch, make Christmas decors? Can you prepare some dishes you can deliver to nearby food establishments? Can you cater or accept orders for cakes, and even meals and snacks for school children? I know of a cousin who supplies meals and snacks to a nearby school as parents don't have time to prepare these daily. You'll be amazed at what you can

do with your basic talents as a woman, homemaker or cook. In the States, babysitting or taking care of the elderly and the sick are also employment opportunities.

6. Get involved in schools, churches, community organizations as these are also places where you get to meet people who may have needs you can provide.

7. Last, but not the least, is PRAY. In my previous columns, I have recommended the book by Rick Warren, "The Purpose Driven Life." If you haven't read it, please do. It can give you more advice than what I can write in this column.

Prayer for work

Pray as God your Creator and Savior, the one who gave you life, your talents and your skills will always provide your needs in His time. Trust in the Lord.

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord ... they are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by their leaves months of drought. Their leaves stay green and they go right on producing delicious fruits." —Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

Let me share with you the prayer on "God will help me to find my right work."

O Lord, our Light on the path of Life, who knows our days from the time we were born, help me to be still and listen to Your voice that I may know what to do and which way to go. For You have commanded that no



CEO mentor Mamon

one will be idle. Dear Father, I have tried to obey that commandment. Yet sometimes I feel that I am not using all these gifts that are in me. Dear Father, please help me find the right work. I know that You will guide me to the work You want me to do. And when I have found it help me to do it well. Whatever my hands find to do, dear Father in home, or field or factory, help me to do it with all my might. Truly I feel I have worked in that way. You will promote me to better work and greater rewards. Dear Father, I truly have faith in You. I have gotten Your guidance in my work before and I will get it again if I listen to you closely and try to understand, and truly I thank You and I feel I am guided and upheld and able to face the work once more with hope and confidence in Jesus' Name, I pray.

Working mom styles

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara



planning and organization skills. You have developed a long-term vision of how you want your work and family life to develop. You are careful about the boundaries between work and family. Plus, you are well organized at home and at work. You thrive on routine. However, Mason warns, you can be "inflexible or unnerved by the unforeseen or uncontrollable," and there is plenty of that where parenting is concerned. You may lose the "beauty of the moment" because you are intent on planning the next step. Once in a while it would be good to savor the spontaneous and carefree joys that naturally come your way.

The camp counselor. This is your pep squad mom. Mason says for this kind of mom "attitude is ev-

everything. Her confident demeanor and enthusiasm for what she is doing carries everyone along." Not one to ponder or worry, she thrives on action. If you are a camp counselor, you are strong-willed and upbeat. You prefer quick action to long reflection and planning. You embody a can-do attitude and don't spend time worrying how things will turn out. Your home is simply a jump-off point for activities and you don't agonize over changes. However, Mason warns, you "may not be tuned in to subtle cues or needs of others." In other words, in your rush to do things, you may not realize what your kids really need or what your boss really requires of you. Once in a while it would be good to step back and reflect on what is truly important to you.

The earth mother. Mason says this kind of mom has a "calm, accepting approach to life. She doesn't worry about or try to change things that are out of her control. If you are an earth mother, you see family life as easy and natural; take difficulties in stride; and

are quite attuned to your children. You do not try to jam-pack too many activities and prefer to just "glow with the flow." At work and with your family, you don't get stressed out too much, you are able to keep your perspective. You prefer to be easygoing than to strain toward high expectations. However, Mason warns, you have the tendency to "subvert your life to the needs of others" and you may have "limited expectations of your children and yourself." Once in a while, it would be good to challenge yourself to get out of your comfort zone and surprise yourself with the fun of new things.

The passionate spirit. Mason says this kind of "mom lives in her emotions. She vividly feels the highs and lows of life; she embodies an artistic temperament." If you are a passionate spirit, you embrace life and the relationships it offers. You immerse yourself in the emotional connection with those close to you. You are very affectionate and transparent about the way you feel. Because you care so

deeply, those in your care thrive. You know how to live the moment and do not spend much time planning. However, Mason warns, your life can sometimes feel out of control. You have difficulty meeting appointments, following plans, and moving on when a problem comes your way. Once in a while it would be good to practice indifference, to pull yourself back from relationships so that you can rediscover the balance you have on your own.

So how about it? Do you spy some of your own hidden patterns in these categories? Is some part of you there in recognition? If you have found your style, do a little dance of joy. This could be your first step toward a full and joyful working mother life.

(An Mercado Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. You can get more work-life balance tips in the April issue with Bea Lucero and Christine Jacobs on the cover. Comments are welcome at an.alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

"A BEAR!" my toddler shouted in triumph. He was reading through the pages of his favorite "I Spy" book. One of a series, the book contains lavishly illustrated pictures with hidden objects in them. An illustration of beautiful silver sky, for instance, has a white bear hidden in the folds of a cloud. After looking closely at the page, he found the snout and the paws, and drew his inevitable conclusion. Then he danced his cute little foot-stamping-arm-raising dance of joy.

I've been doing my own "I Spy" game lately. Since I read Linda Mason's wonderful book "The Working Mother's Guide to Life" (published by The Three Rivers Press, available through Amazon), I have found myself looking for hidden images and patterns when I talk to working moms. As founder of Bright Horizons Family Solutions, the world's largest provider of employer-based workplace childcare and early education, Mason has talked to hundreds of working moms and she has discovered that working mothers operate from hid-

den assumptions, motives, and patterns that make them very different from each other. So, I've been having fun "spying" on friends to learn from them and to be inspired by their style of mothering.

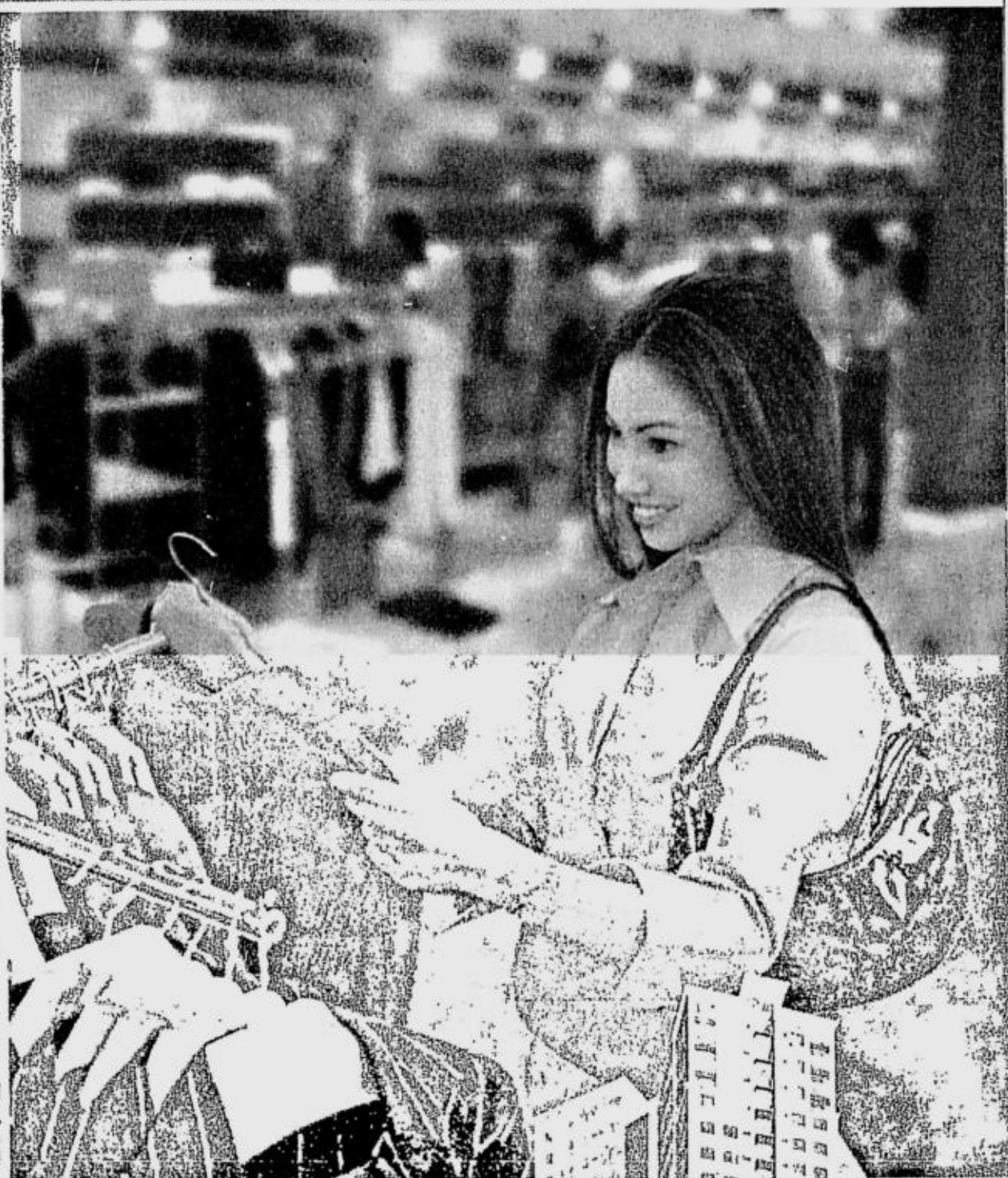
Exactly what am I looking for? Mason has noticed four general patterns in the way working moms approach the challenge of balancing work and family life. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the style we use could be the first step in helping us strike a sustainable work-life balance.

While she covers the different types more extensively in her book, I present to you a bird's eye view of these, in the hope that it will help you get a glimpse of the hidden patterns in your own life.

The strategic planner. Mason says this is the kind of working mom that "lives her life intentionally." Things don't simply happen to her, she crafts her life." She has the ability to thoughtfully chart a personal and family plan, to set goals and to operate them. If you are a strategic planner, you have strong

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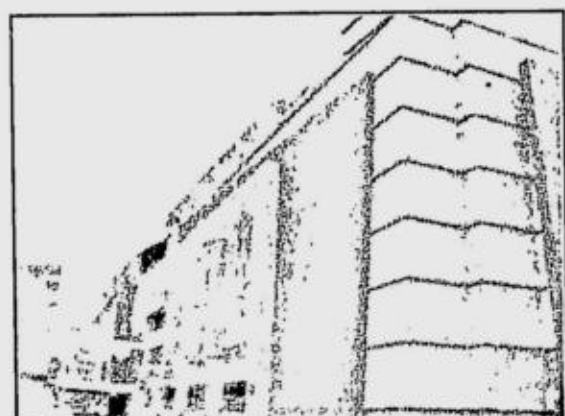


Nestled within the community of the 28-storey One Gateway Place is the New Robinsons Mall. The mall will offer by the 3rd quarter of the year and will have Big R Supercenter, Home Depot, department store, movie theater, Micro Retail Shops and restaurants that will cater to you, even the in just a few steps from your door.

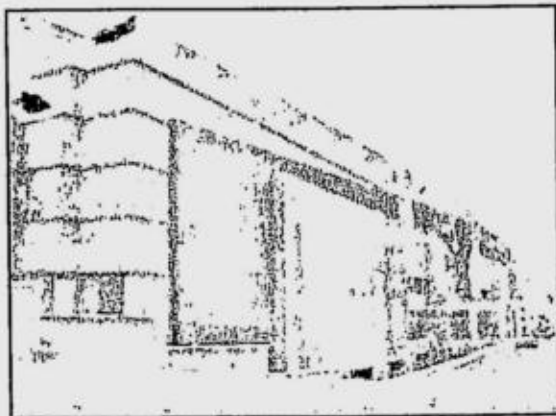
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Actual photos of Mall construction

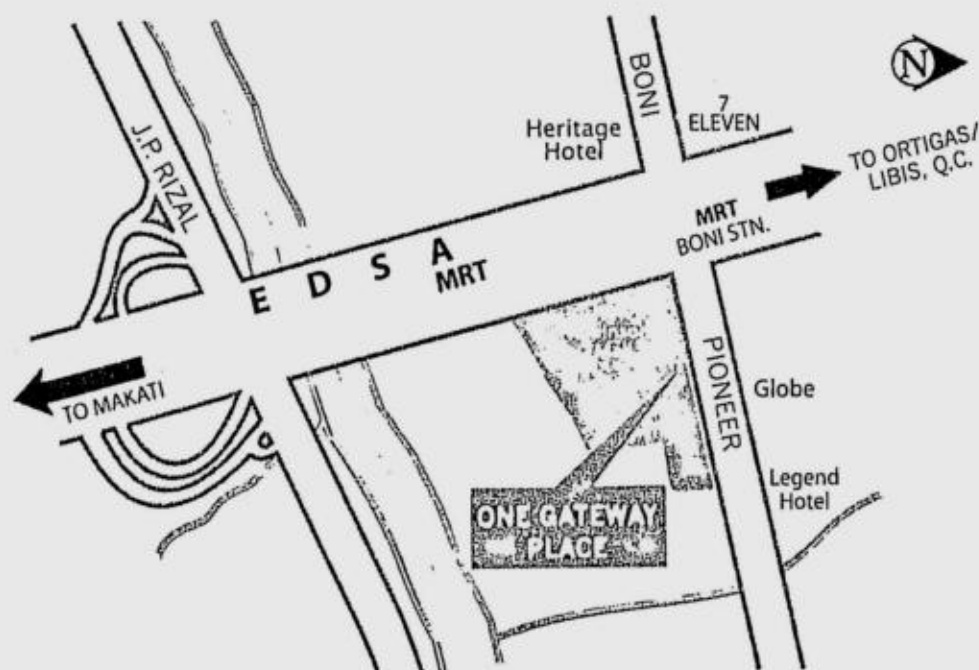


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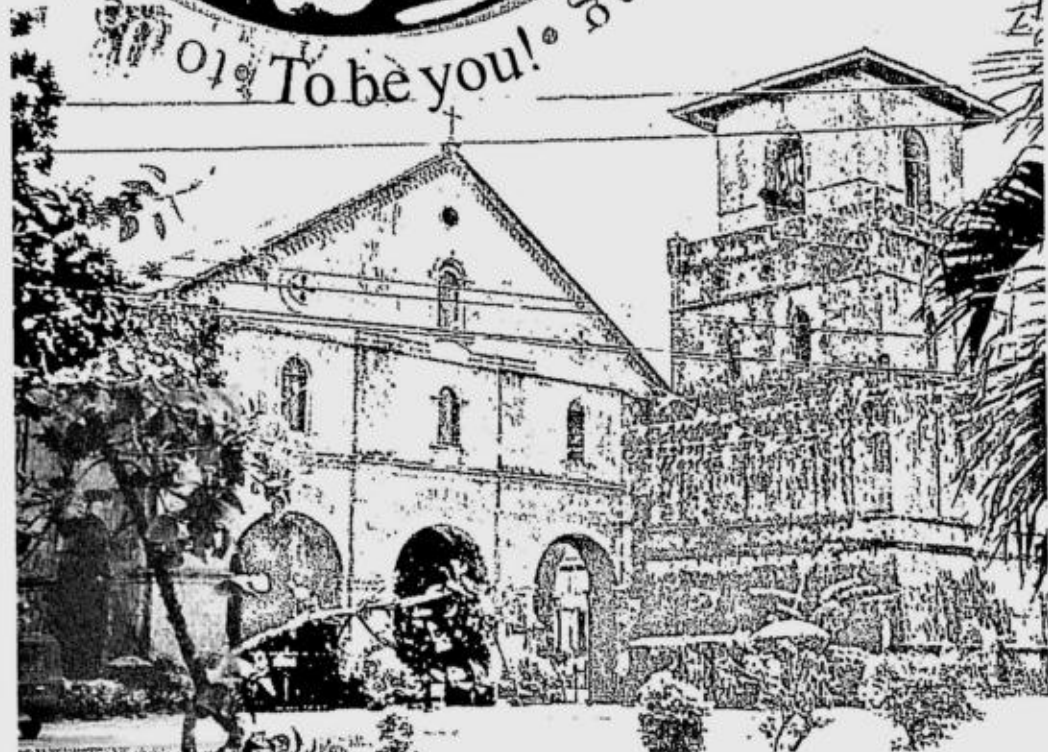
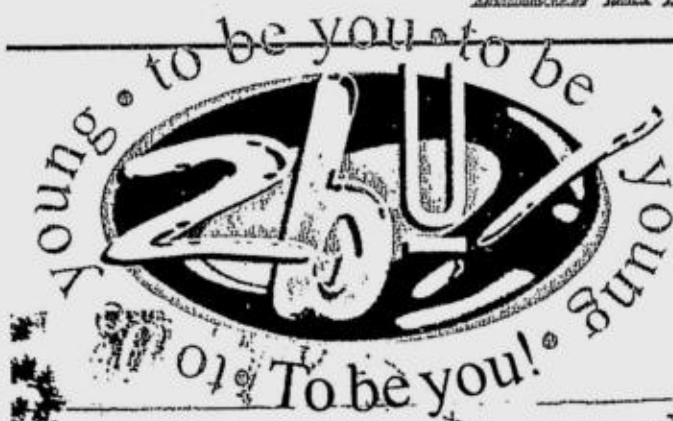
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

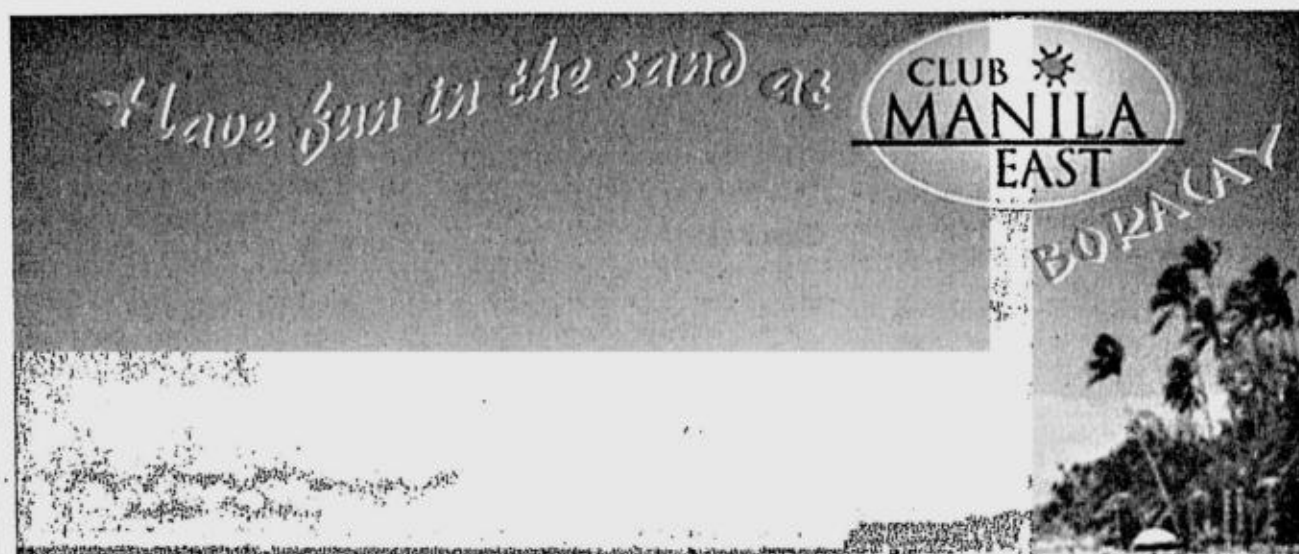


LIFESTYLE

goes to Bohol



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Jewel of the south

Text and photos
by April Anne Misa

HOW can one not love the Philippines? I just got back from my trip to Bohol and there are so many things I want to share, but words are meager in describing the awe I feel for our country. Compared to most of the tourist spots I've been to, Bohol is definitely a sparkling gem among the many treasures of the Philippine Islands.

Upon arriving in Tagbilaran City, Chito and Henry, our tour guide and service driver, respectively, greeted us with a tarsier beaded necklace. It's definitely a keepsake. We then checked in at Dao Diamond Hotel. Aside from the beautiful room and the great service, accommodation is very affordable. To our amazement, their efficient employees are deaf and mute.

Floating buffet resto

We toured the countryside first and we saw the blood com-

Bohol is definitely a sparkling gem among the many treasures of the Philippine Islands

place site where Datu Sikatuna and Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, the Spanish conquistador, sealed their friendship.

Boholanos are very proud of their numerous coral stone churches, which were established during the Spanish settlement in the 16th century. We were astonished at how they've been preserved.

We had lunch on the famous Loboc River Cruise. Owned and operated by Raymond Cal, the floating buffet restaurant cruises along Loboc River and U-turns at the Busay Waterfalls while the locals serenade the guests. Original

JEWEL/C2



BALUT Island



TOP CHARTS

REBIRTH

- 1 You Don't Know My Name
- 2 So Into You
- 3 Rock The Boat
- 4 Me, Myself And I
- 5 Rainy Dayz
- 6 Stutter
- 7 Shoulda Woulda Coulda
- 8 No Letting Go
- 9 Frontin'
- 10 I'll Never Leave You

Alicia Keys
Fabolous & Ashanti
Aaliyah
Beyonce
Mary J. Blige feat. Ja Rule
Joe & Mystikal
Beverly Knight
Wayne Wonder
Pharrell & Jay-Z
Lumidee

- TONE YOU DON'T**
TONE INTOU
TONE ROCKTHE
TONE MEHMYSELF
TONE RAINYDAY
TONE STUTTER
TONE SHOULD
TONE NOLET
TONE FRONTIN
TONE NEVERLEAVE

ALTERNATIVE HITS

- 1 Unwell
- 2 Awit Ng Kabataan
- 3 Toyang
- 4 Teenage Dirtbag
- 5 Butterfly
- 6 Hella Good
- 7 Clint Eastwood
- 8 The Beautiful Occupation
- 9 Song For The Dumped
- 10 Clocks

Matchbox 20
Rivermaya
Eraserheads
Wheat
Crazytown
No Doubt
Garillaz
Travis
Ben Folds Five
Coldplay

- TONE UNWELL**
TONE KABATAAN
TONE TOYANG
TONE TEENAGE
TONE BUTTERFLY
TONE HELLAGOOD
TONE CLINTEAST
TONE BOCCUP
TONE ADDUMPED
TONE CLOCKS

OPM HITS

- 1 Bakit Pa Ba
- 2 Sembang
- 3 Kung Ako Na Lang Sana
- 4 Miss Flawless
- 5 Ayoko Na Sa'yo
- 6 Line To Heaven
- 7 Don't Know What To Say
- 8 Alam Kong Di Ako, Okey Lang
- 9 Kanlungan
- 10 Forever's Not Enough

Jay-R
Eraserheads
Bituin Escalante
Angelica Jones
Mahal & Mura
Introvoys
Ric Sigreta
Bayani Agbayani
Noel Cabangon
Sarah Geronimo

- TONE BAKITPABA**
TONE SEMBREAK
TONE KUNGAKO
TONE FLAW
TONE AYOKO
TONE LINEHEAVEN
TONE WATZSAY
TONE OKEYLANG
TONE KANLUNGAN
TONE EVERSNOT

POP HITS

- 1 Mandy
- 2 Toxic
- 3 Powerless
- 4 I Promise I Will
- 5 Delirium
- 6 I'm A Believer
- 7 Like I Love You
- 8 Promises
- 9 Losing Grip
- 10 Love Me For A Reason

Westlife
Britney Spears
Nelly Furtado
Stacie Orrico
Pink
Justin Timberlake
Kylie Minogue
Avril Lavigne
Boyz n the

- TONE MANDY**
TONE TOXIC
TONE POWERLESS
TONE IPROMISE
TONE DELIRIUM
TONE IMABELIEVR
TONE LIKEI
TONE PROMISES
TONE LOSING
TONE LUVARISH

TOP LOGOS

- 1 LOGO BEARLUV2
- 2 LOGO KOSI
- 3 LOGO CUTEAKO
- 4 LOGO SUHOT
- 5 LOGO CATHINK
- 6 LOGO SUNNYDAY
- 7 LOGO LUVU
- 8 LOGO SUMMBODY
- 9 LOGO SUNSMILE
- 10 LOGO LOVE
- 11 LOGO PINUP
- 12 LOGO DABOMB
- 13 LOGO HOT
- 14 LOGO INIBALZ
- 15 LOGO SURI
- 16 LOGO AGILAZ
- 17 LOGO ZHOT
- 18 LOGO ZHARTS
- 19 LOGO TEDDYLUV
- 20 LOGO JESUS

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- 18 LOGO ZHARTS
- 19 LOGO TEDDYLUV
- 20 LOGO JESUS

TOP PIC MESSAGES

- 1 PIC HOTIN
- 2 PIC ANGPOGI
- 3 PIC ZHOT
- 4 PIC LUVSUM
- 5 PIC MISSERY
- 6 PIC CUTEAKO2
- 7 PIC MISSPART
- 8 PIC PAKISSA
- 9 PIC ILKIDS
- 10 PIC LUVBUT

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How to download a logo, ring tone or picture message

- 1 LOGO BEARLUV2
- 2 288
- 3

TYPE BY KEYWORD:
EX. LOGO BEARLUV2,
TONE HELLAGOOD,
OR PIC HOTIN

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Food and finds

By Beia Formoso

WHAT'S a good vacation without good food? Bohol has special goodies to offer the ardent traveler, as well as its own takes on old Filipino favorites.

And it's nice to know that even the remotest resorts of Panglao and Balicasag carry a diverse menu that assures foreigners of a reliable meal of clubhouse sandwiches and bacon-and-eggs-breakfasts, among others. Even better, food is cheap anywhere in the region.

When ordering meals in Bohol, opt for seafood, as it is sure to be fresh. Start off with *calamares fritos*, then indulge in grilled or sizzling gigantic prawns, squid, clams and fish. Just make sure there's plenty of rice on your plate to go along with all these. Or you can get your daily dose of carbs with a hearty serving of seafood pasta.

The buffet on the Loboc River Cruise is a must-try, and the scenery from the boat ride isn't bad either. Hot *ulam* of crispy breaded fried chicken, *inihaw na liempo*, *sinigang na hipon*, *tortang talong*, *miswa* soup, *guso* (seaweed) salad, capped with all the rice you can eat and banana for dessert, will only set you back P250.

A live one-man band will entertain you with songs ranging from "When I Fall in Love" to "Ocho-Ocho" while you dine and bask in the view of mini-waterfalls and kids playing in the water.

Best bet

However, if you're looking for a unique dining experience, the in-house buffet at Bohol Bee Farm located in Dauis is your best bet. For a mere P250, feast on seafood lasagna and homemade herb bread, baked *kamote* with cream (which is like mashed potatoes, only sweeter), baked honey-glazed chicken, baked fish with sweet 'n sour sauce, herb rice and the special bountiful garden salad that

has real flowers tossed into it.

Wash all these down with basil iced tea, then finish them with a dessert of squash muffins and traditional home-made *kape* made from roasted corn, a healthier alternative to coffee beans but with the same taste. Ingredients are fresh from the organic farm and garden of owner Vicky Wallace.

Trudis Place on Alona Beach is also definitely a place worth spending time and a few pesos in. Though it may look like a mere *sari-sari* store-cum-*karinderya*, it offers a wide range of meals (for breakfast, lunch, dinner) and tasty treats.

This is where you will stumble upon fruit *halo-halo*, a concoction for certified fruit lovers. At first glance, it seems like typical *halo-halo* with shaved ice and ube ice cream, but the cornflakes sprinkled on top hint that underneath is a vitamin-filled mix of sliced apples, bananas, mangoes and, in other restaurants, coconut and grapes.

At the Villa Alzhun restaurant in Tagbilaran City, fruit *halo-halo* is served with regular ingredients like nata de coco and kaong.

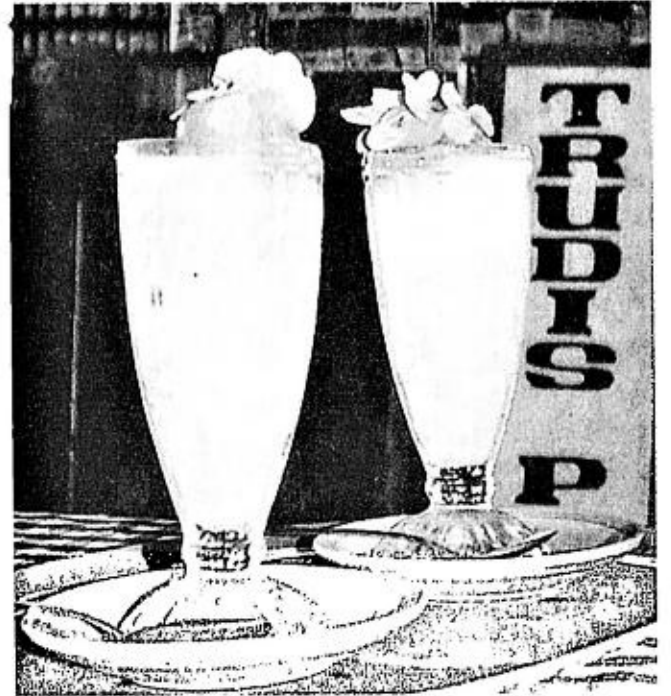
Another yummy treat at Trudis: pancakes, which are light, airy and almost as thin as crepes. Order the chocolate version, drizzled and filled with thick warm Boholano *tsokolate* syrup.

For snacking on the road, skip chips and pop open a box of Peanut Kisses instead. These crunchy peanut and egg-white cookies come in attractive red packaging and happen to be the number one native delicacy. They're the perfect *pasalubong* for relatives and friends.

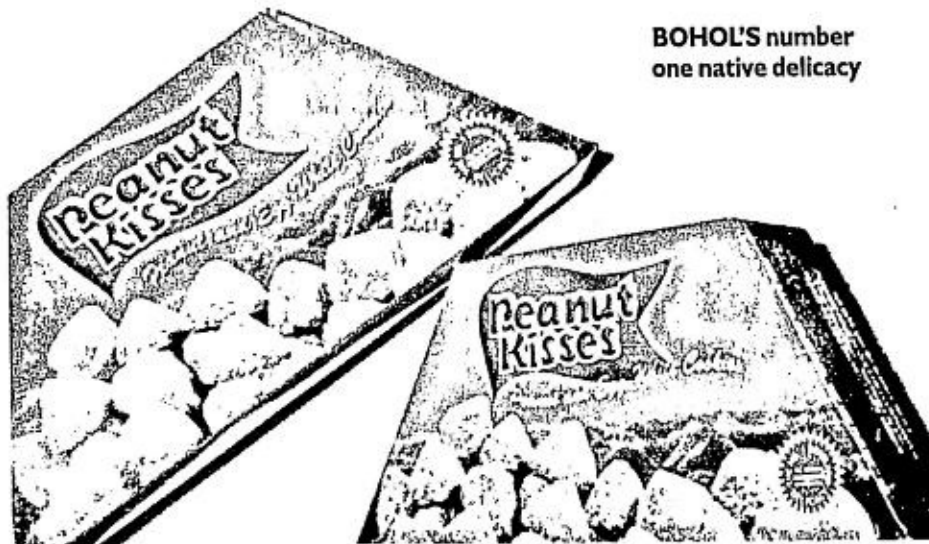
Handicraft souvenirs

Speaking of *pasalubong*, souvenirs of handicrafts made from shells or wood

Good news
for your
wallet
—chow is
cheap
anywhere
in the
region



FRUIT halo-halo at Trudis Place, Alona Beach, Panglao.



BOHOL'S number one native delicacy

Jewel of the south

From page C1

nally, Cal was a boatman who toured guests around the river for some sight-seeing. After noticing that tourists would bring food for lunch, he came up with the idea of selling packed lunches, then thought of opening a buffet-style floating restaurant. Slowly but surely, his business became lucrative and now he has six boats to his name.

Afterwards, we drove through Loboc, referred to as the Music Town. It is famous for the Loboc Children's Choir, which is known all over the world for their angelic voices. All Loboc residents are said to be able to play at least one musical instrument. This practice has been passed on through generations

and was first started when the Spaniards put up a music school.

And, of course, a trip to Bohol would not be complete without seeing the spectacular view of the Chocolate Hills and visiting the Tarsier Sanctuary. We ended the day by attending the traditional Maundy Thursday Mass. This is a special celebration done every year, with the bishop presiding over the ceremony.

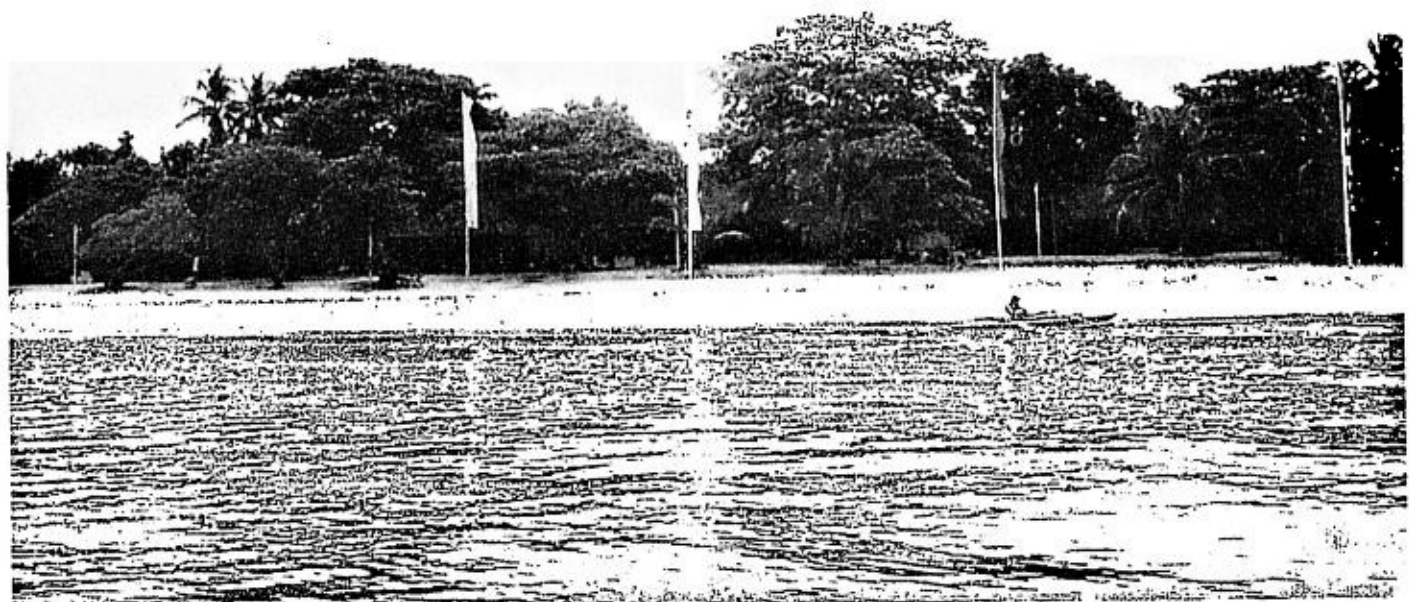
The mass was celebrated in Bisaya. It lasted for about two hours, and the Cathedral was overflowing with the faithful. What made this celebration more exciting was the presence of the provincial governor and the city mayor at the altar as part of the ritual, proving that religion is a big part of this town's political culture.

Beautiful creatures

At 4:30 a.m. the next day, we headed to Alona Beach in Panglao Island for the Marine Life Tour. The whale and dolphin sightings in Pamilacan Island is 30 minutes away off the coast of Panglao.

Our local guide, Turning Arano, gave us a brief background of the tour, which came about in 1997, when the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas and World Wildlife Fund established the Pamilacan Island Dolphin and Whale Watching Organization. Among other things, it worked for banning the hunting of the endangered mammals. Now, the ex-hunters earn their living by showing off these beautiful creatures of the sea.

We sailed to the horizon in search of dolphins and whales. mang Leo Sumalping, our boat



BALICASAG Island Dive Resort

captain and a former hunter himself, stood on the outrigger and in full balance was talking on his cell phone. With him facing the sunrise, the scene was perfect for a cell-phone commercial.

Mang Pedro Agipo, our spotter and also a former hunter, whistled in the air and clapped his hands to call on the dolphins. I thought I'd be lucky if I saw at the most five dolphins, but when more than a hundred spinner dolphins started jumping and swimming along with our boat, I felt like a kid again.

We weren't able to see a whale, though, but the tour was worth it. The moment we got off the boat, the locals greeted us with a string of *calachuchi* necklaces. We had lunch on the laid-back white sands of Pamilacan Island.

After lunch, we went snorkeling around the island. The corals and marine life were in abundance. As an added bonus, Mang Leo helped us find "Nemo" (clown fish), showed us a school of *dalagang bukid* and dove for the things we pointed to underwater.

We spent the night at Bohol Bee Farm where owner Vicky Wallace welcomed us with great warmth. Her farm was lovely, with its wide array of organic produce, flowers and, of course, bees. The restaurant isn't the typical four-cornered room, but a very spacious affair with colorful hammocks hung all around and giant yellow bumblebee lanterns lighting up our dinner.

The next day, we didn't have the heart to leave, but we were headed to Balicasag Island, around one hour off the coast of Panglao. Lemon and Jomar, our designated boatmen, were responsible for transferring us to Balicasag Island Dive Resort. Not only were they boatmen but they are also local dive masters who



AT the Tarsier Sanctuary along Loboc River

were part of the movie "Muro-Ami" when it was filmed in Bohol.

Heavenly vision

Balicasag is a heavenly vision of white coral sand with flourishing trees and bushes along the seashore. At first you wouldn't see the resort behind the trees until you get closer. This is definitely the next hotspot for summer get-aways. I hope they don't take out the trees and bushes that give the island an untouched look.

Balicasag is also said to be one of the best dive spots in the Philippines. The island is shaped like a mushroom, and the wall of its underwater "stem" is covered with colorful corals. I decided to dive at "The Wall" and asked Lemon to be my dive master while Jomar took my two friends snorkeling.

After our dive, we scoured the islands

of Bohol, notably a small outcropping of land called Balut Island. You should see it. It was like a scene from the movie "Blue Lagoon." Soft powdery white sand, coconut trees and lush greenery—it was paradise.

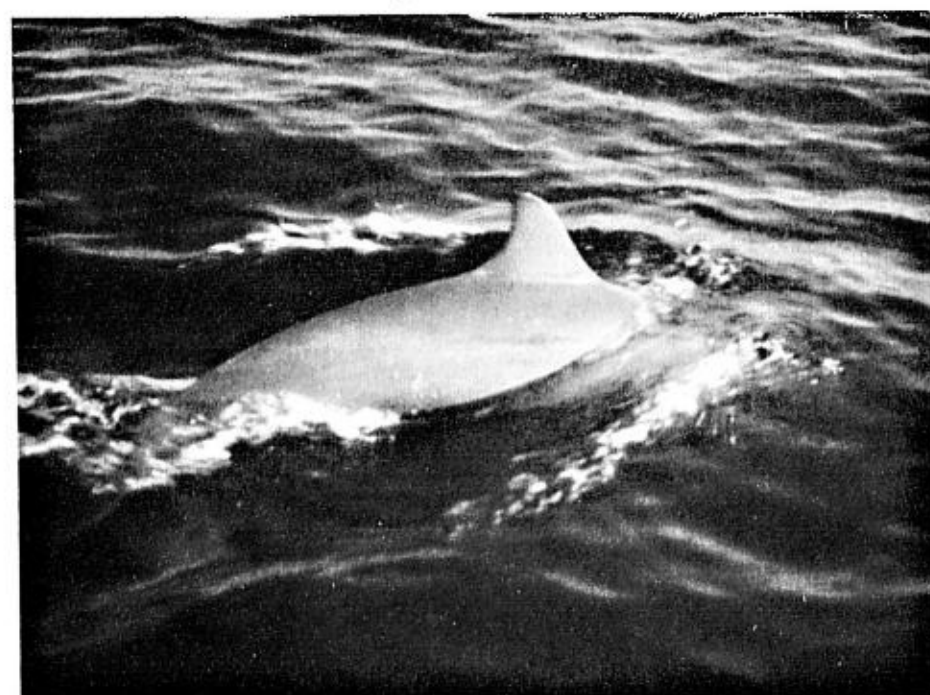
There was no sign of civilization there except for the group of foreigners who had set up a tent and managed to tie a hammock between two small trees.

At sunset, we headed back to Balicasag, and it was time to go home to Manila the next day. So we did some last-minute shopping before leaving the island. Even though we didn't buy anything from local women who were offering us native crafts, we still got a cheery "Balik kayo, ha?" from them.

In the end, that's what you have to love about Bohol and the Philippines. We're the nicest, most hospitable people on earth.



DIVE master Lemon poses for us on the way to Balicasag Island.



ONE of the many spinner dolphins we saw on the marine life tour.

10 reasons you should go to BOHOL

Text and photos by Janus Victoria Contributor

AFTER hearing your Sibika at Kultura teacher drone on and on about the national treasures of each region in the Philippines for six years in elementary school, you must think by now that the only things to see in Bohol are the Chocolate Hills and tarsiers.

And it doesn't help either that the only pictures you see of Bohol are those featuring the famous hills and the world's smallest primate. But before you close your door on this enchanting island, here are 10 reasons you should give it another look:

10. Fresh seafood

As Bohol is not yet commercialized, most of the restaurants you will see along the beach strip are small canteens. They're the best places to binge on seafood. Their prices are very cheap and they do more than the usual *inihaw*. For P60, you can get pasta with shrimps in tomato sauce.

9. Ornament shopping

The jewelry vendors of Bohol are mobile. You will see them walking along the shores with a big *bilao* on their heads. And in their *bilao* is a delightful feast of ornaments such as *puka* necklaces, different shades of *capiz* bangles, white and pink strings of rice pearls and naturally colored coral jewelry.



TARSIER stuffed toy, almost as good as the real thing. Above: tarsier beaded necklace

8. Old churches

Almost every town in Bohol boasts of a church that is at least a century old. But their endurance after hundreds of years is not their only admirable quality. These churches are made of crushed coral stones, and inside them are ceilings covered with paintings depicting visions of heaven masterfully done by local artists from Cebu and Bohol that remind you of the works of Old Italian masters.

7. Loboc River Cruise

The Loboc River Cruise is like a town fiesta. For two hours aboard a big raft, you'll be treated to an assortment of Boholano dishes and renditions of popular songs. At the same time, you become a part of a procession of rafts cruising along the river. So while you're in the tow, don't be shy. Wave and smile like a Flores de Mayo king or queen at the friendly locals who live by the river.

6. Loboc Children's Choir

The Loboc Children's Choir is world-renowned for their angelic voices. Composed of children from ages 9-12 from the musical town of Loboc, this amazing group has already performed in many of the great cities, including the Vatican, with the Pope in the audience. When in Bohol, be sure to attend Mass in Loboc. You might just have a chance to see and hear angels on earth.

5. Bohol Bee Farm

The Bohol Bee Farm is a place of inspiration. Located near the edge of cliff by the sea, the farm is perfect for retreats. It is surrounded by wild flowers and much needed silence. But what makes this place memorable is the food. Each dish served here is a labor of love created by owner Vicky Wallace with the use of honey and home-grown ingredients.

4. Deserted islands

There are about a hundred small islands



APRIL, Lemon and Jomar getting ready to dive

scattered around the mother island of Bohol. So if you want to spend a day in total isolation in a beach paradise, all you have to do is rent a boat and head for one of these islands. And here's the best part: your stay is free.

3. Snorkeling

Once you've tried snorkeling, you can never be satisfied with just paddling near the shore. The waters of Bohol are overflowing with marine life even at shallow levels. You will never see so many starfish in your life. And if you're looking for Nemo, you will surely find him there.

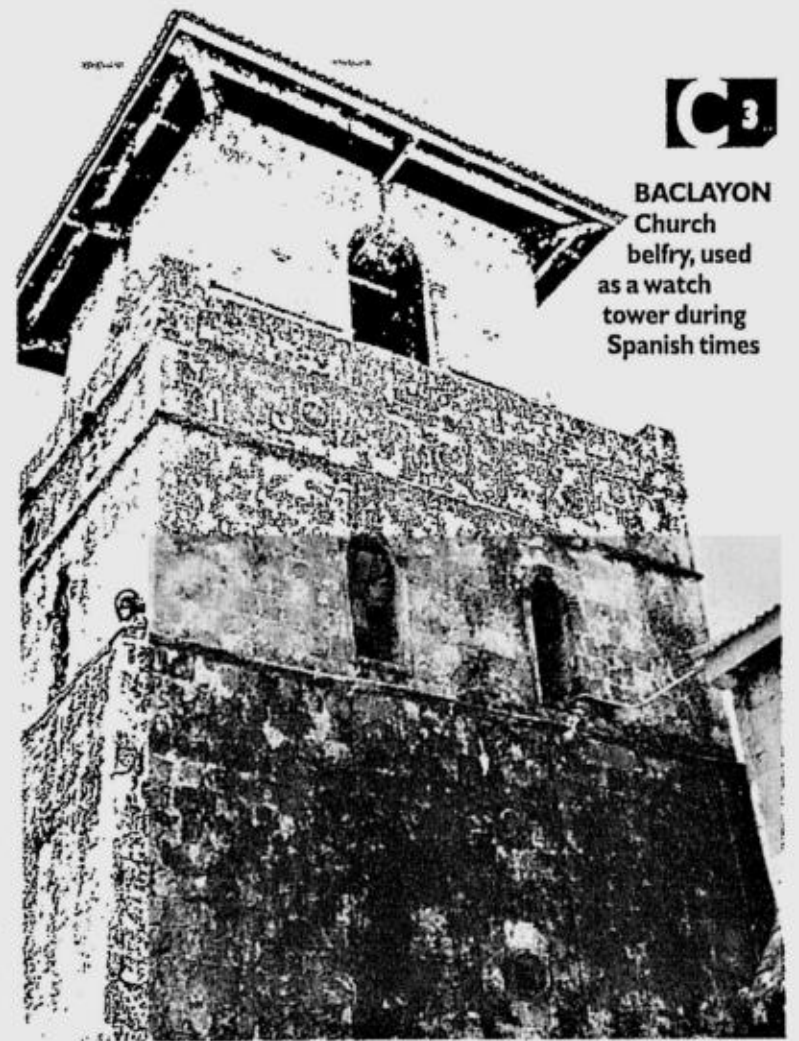
2. Dolphin- and whale-watching

After years of being hunted and slaugh-

tered, the dolphins and whales of Bohol are finally protected by the law. What's even better is the response of their past hunters, who now serve as protectors and tourist guides. Visitors have the chance to interact with these wonderful creatures in the waters surrounding Pamilacan, Bohol.

1. Diving

If Bohol is famous locally for the Chocolate Hills and tarsiers, abroad it is known to be one of the best diving spots in the Philippines. Remember the epic film "Muro Ami"? All the underwater scenes of the film were shot in the waters of Balicasag, Bohol. So if you want to explore the depths of the sea and witness undisturbed marine life, this is definitely the place to start.



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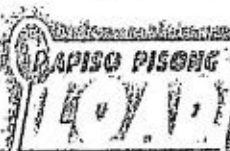
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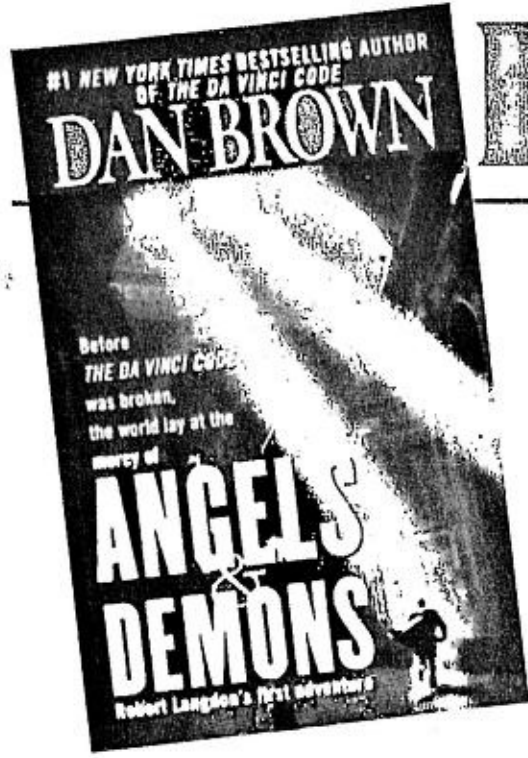
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Before 'The Da Vinci Code,' there was 'Angels and Demons,' a fast-paced thriller not for the faint of heart

"Angels and Demons"
By Dan Brown

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

IT is the 21st century. Robert Langdon, Harvard symbologist, is summoned to Switzerland's Conseil Europeen pour la Recherche Nucleaire (CERN) to investigate the baffling murder of a respected physicist.

A mysterious word seared into the victim's chest leads him to discover two things: One, that the scientist's stolen research on antimatter is capable of mass destruction, and two, that the legendary Illuminati has resurfaced to bring down its greatest enemy: the Catholic Church.

What's worse, it is time to elect a new pope, and four popular cardinals have just been kidnapped. Together with Vittoria Vetra, daughter of the deceased, Langdon combs the streets of Rome to find the four altars of science and to save the cardinals and the entire Church—all in 24 hours.

Thus is set "Angels and Demons," Robert Langdon's adventure before the phenomenal "The Da Vinci Code." With the same intelligent plotting and thorough research that made Dan Brown a respected name in the book world, "Angels and Demons" is 569 pages of adventure—that is not for the faint of heart.

The only thing you can predict in this book is that Langdon will survive the ordeal—and that's only because you have read "The Da Vinci Code."

The Illuminati

What initially grasps you as a reader is how Brown craftily intertwines physics, religion and history, making hard fact as his foundation for an intricate, if not overzealous, story.

He accomplishes this by assigning the role of villain to the seemingly mythical Illuminati. The group, which has been ripped off several times by video games and Hollywood, was formed in Rome during the 1500s by scientists to fight the persecution of the Church. The Illuminati was composed of the brightest minds in Europe who dedicated their lives to the pursuit of scientific truth.

To drive his point home without coming across as a history teacher, Brown tempts the readers by peppering his book with juicy tidbits of historical information that make "Angels" not wholly unlike a gossip-laden tabloid. The best-kept secrets of scientists, priests, saints, and even modern-day politicians are divulged in a labyrinthine quest to save one of the most powerful institutions in the world.

Another thing that keeps the reader's eyes glued to the page is the character of the camerlengo, a young priest who was the Pope's right-hand man and confidante. Extremely devoted to his faith and to his deceased superior, the camerlengo is the typical "pillar of strength" in literature.

In the midst of this pressing global scandal, a few pages' worth of his commanding speech to the uncertain world might bring tears to the eyes of the reader who would allow himself to be carried away.

Ambigrams

Plots and characters aside, what makes "Angels and Demons" a must-read are the ambigrams designed by artist John Langdon. An ambigram ("ambi" meaning "both") is a word that can be read in both ways. As an example, read the words below. Then turn this newspaper 180 degrees. Note that the words still read the same way.

However, the excitement that caused the rise of this novel is precisely what initiates its demise. All that energy that came from a fantastic premise made the book falter in almost heinous ways.

It stumbles in bringing the climax down and instead hypes it up by introducing very unlikely

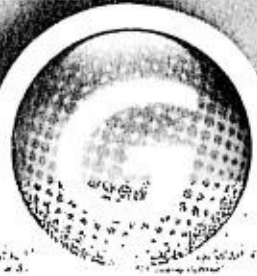
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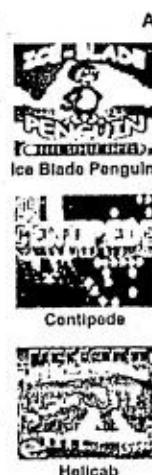


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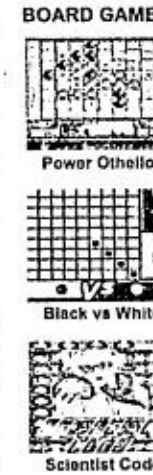
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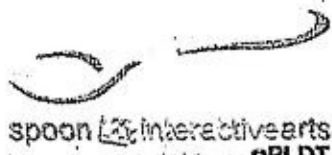
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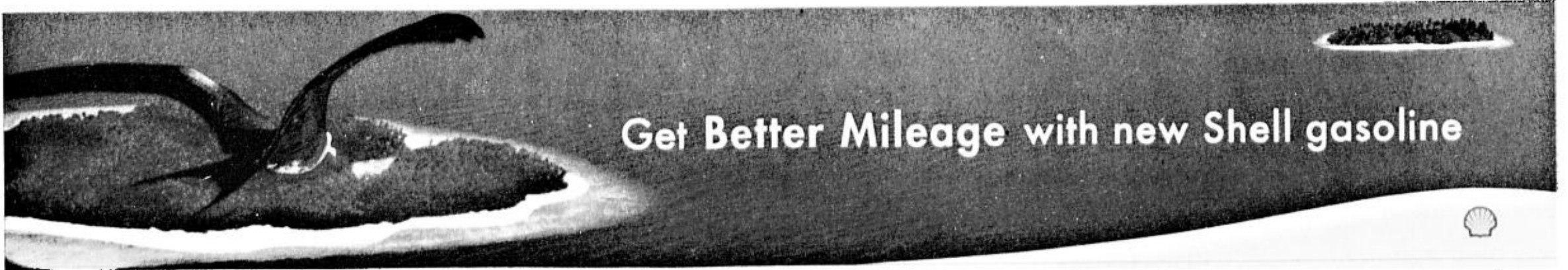
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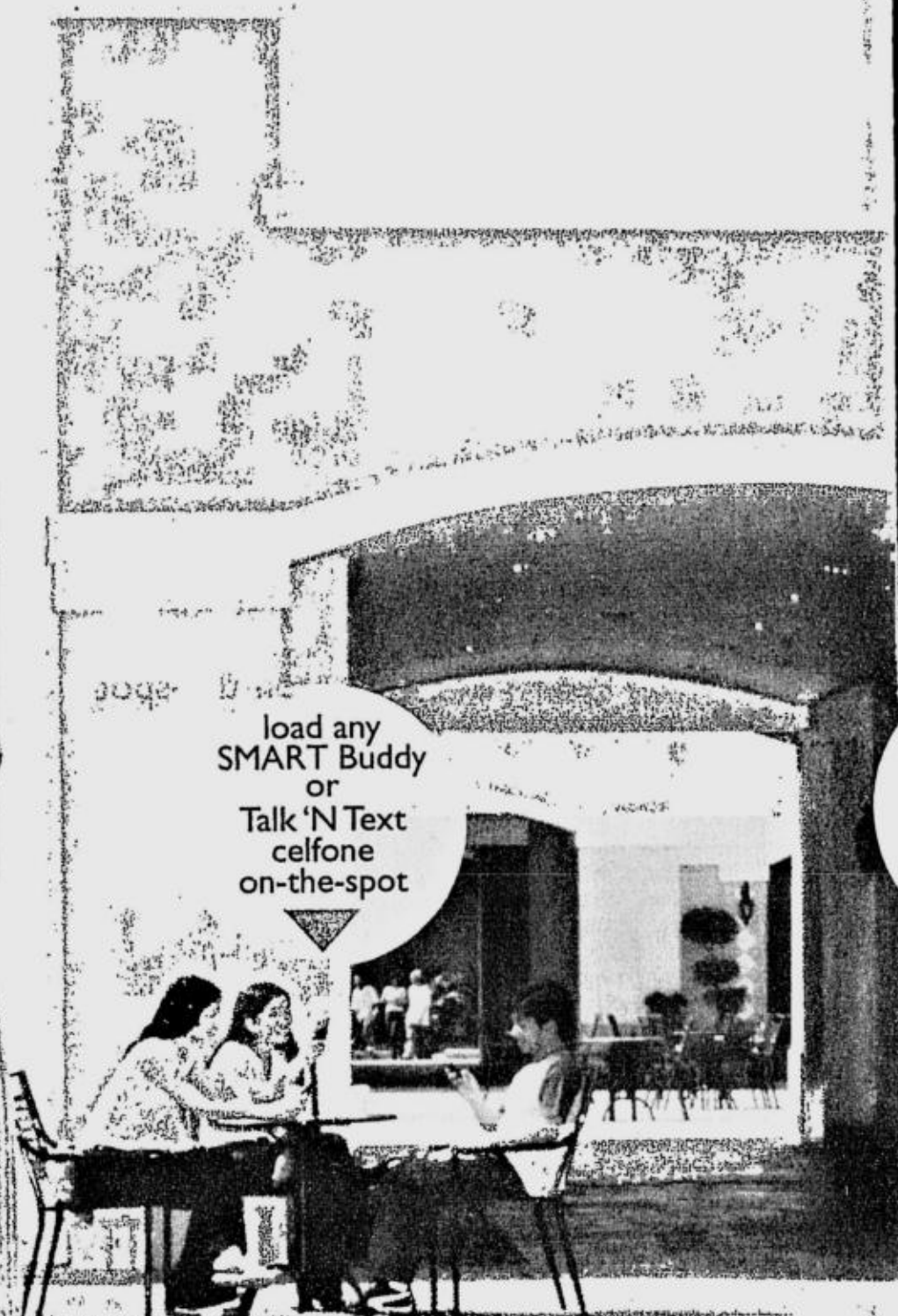


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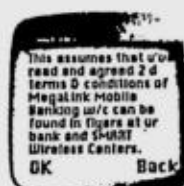
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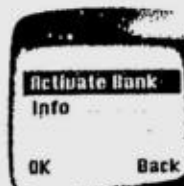


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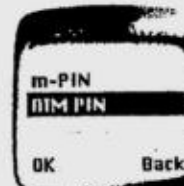
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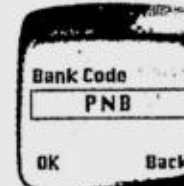
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2. Select Activate Bank, press ok.

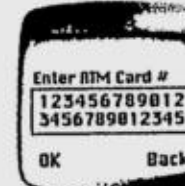


3. Select ATM PIN to activate bank, press ok.



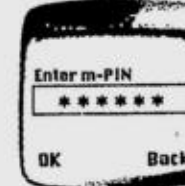
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Rekindling the Asian spirit

"Around Asia in 1 Hour (Tales of Condoms, Chillies and Curries)"

By Yeoh Siew Hoon
176 pages, Angsana Books
June 2003

ONE does not often come across travel books that begin like this: "There is no place like Asia. In fact, there is no place called Asia. This is true. Look at any of the world's atlases. Do you see the word 'Asia' over any mass of land? If you do, don't let me know. Truth is, 'Asia' is a convenient catch-all created by tourism marketers to promote the bits of land masses scattered somewhere between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans."

Often dry, sometimes irreverent, yet always funny, Yeoh Siew Hoon is considered a treasure in the world of travel writing. In her younger days she wanted to be a tour guide, seeing them as "heroes of the brave new world ... for in their hands was the responsibility for forging human understanding across different countries and cultures."

Still, disillusioned by a tour guide friend's obsession with making money, she opted to be a travel writer instead. Twenty years later, she has succeeded in fulfilling her childhood dream of exciting readers' imagination by weaving tales of exotic cultures.

Enigma

"Around Asia in 1 Hour: Tales of Condoms, Chillies and Curries" is a magnificent, albeit condensed, sojourn into the enigma that is Asia. It is an eclectic collection of essays that mixes the content of a tour guide's spiels with little-known facts about the region.

Its readability is heightened by its look—glossy colored pages bound in a thin paperback that can easily fit into luggage or in crowded office desks, in case one wants to imagine himself far away from work for a few minutes.

It is Siew Hoon's sharp, ironic humor that makes her shine in her field. In writing about China, "The Land of Plenty," she goes: "During the Cultural Revolution, fireworks displays

were held throughout the country to celebrate the burning of 'intellectual works.' A lot of paper went up in smoke. That's why today China has the world's highest growth in Internet users. There just isn't enough paper to go round."

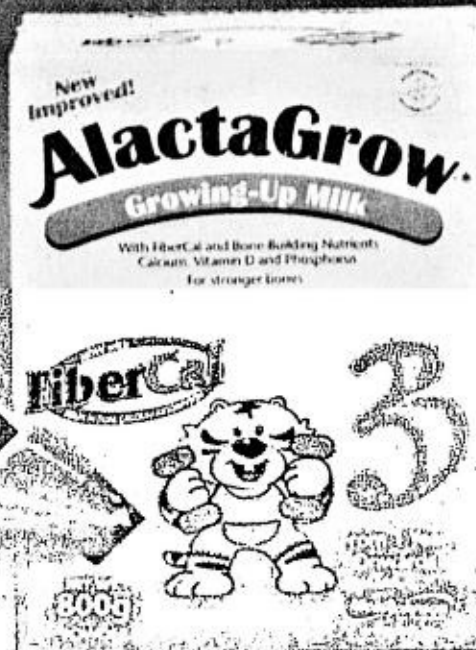
It is also notable that her sarcasm, for better or for worse, goes beyond seeing the sights. Brief yet biting commentaries on racism, history and politics permeate most pieces. These enable one to know not just the traditions that Asians care about, but also some of the issues that matter to them, whether it's as serious as the plots of the Vietcongs or as pedestrian as the no-food policy in Australian customs.

Imaginary dialogue

But sarcasm alone cannot stand. What makes Siew Hoon's writing distinctive is her penchant for constructing dialogue for imaginary scenarios. While pondering on the aphrodisiac effect of coconuts in Indian culture, for instance, she dreams up this conversation among a leading man, a starlet and a



Bigyan siya ng brain nutrients na abot-kaya.



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future mother-in-law:

Leading Man: Have some of my coconuts, darling.

Leading Starlet: Hmmm, they are so delicious. Oh, my skin is tingling. My lips are burning. I love you...

Future Mother-in-Law: Give me those nuts! It's also interesting to see how some cultural nuances of different countries overlap. The following Singaporean lunchtime conversation made me think of the Filipino tendency to talk about their next meal while eating their present one:

Kumar: Wah, this chicken rice so good.

Harry: Not so good lah. I tell you, the one in Seah Street is even better.

Kumar: How can lah? Is it the chillies?

Harry: Don't know one. Let's go there for dinner.

On the downside, although the pictures are breathtaking and abundant, they sometimes look no different from a travel brochure. Nevertheless, they succeed in doing what photographs are supposed to do: not just make readers want to go to the featured places, but also make them feel as if they were there.

Party town

What is most interesting for me as a Filipino is, naturally, how a fellow Asian perceives the Philippines. Her essay on our country is titled "Party Town." But the use of this phrase is not as innocent as we may think.

"The Filipinos are known for throwing great parties," she writes. "Their favorite venue is on the streets. Every time they want to change their head of state, they throw street carnivals where people do the cha-cha to chase out the old guard."

Perhaps it's just me, but this essay seems to comment more on our politics and our economy than anything else. The Marcoses are mentioned several times in her writing, from Imelda's shoes to the infamous couple's expulsion from the Malacañang Palace.

Siew Hoon describes President Arroyo as a politician that "may be pint-sized but ... is one strong woman warrior." She also relates her theme to former President Estrada: "the 'Pollywood' president, [who] had secret parties of his own until he got partied out."

Fortunately, these are not the only things that she finds remarkable about the Philippines. She praises us for our overseas contract workers, our island beaches, religious festivals, and our music, labeling us the "best entertainers in Asia."

Perhaps despite political bickering that causes the stock market to drop every time, our unadulterated natural resources and our warmth as a people still significantly fuel the tourism industry.

But ultimately, what is great about this book is the satisfying partnership of the familiar and the foreign. For us Asians, we can identify with the book's descriptions while wanting to discover what we have yet to explore. After reading the last page, which has something to do with Vietnamese legends, we may just find ourselves coming to the conclusion that Asia is indeed an assault on the senses.

Catherine Young

Available at PowerBooks Specialty Store

A worthy read ...

From page D1

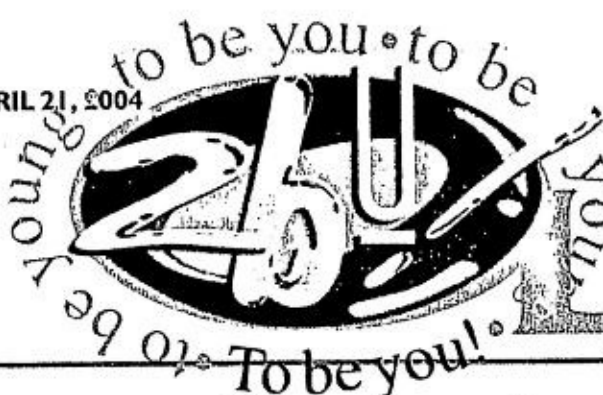
scenes, such as Langdon jumping from a helicopter with only a sheet and the antimatter bomb exploding not too far from him. He survives the incident with only minor scratches and still heads back to the Vatican to save the day and give the cardinals a history lesson. Rah-rah.

But apart from the disappointing ending, "Angels and Demons" arguably compares to, if not exceeds, "The Da Vinci Code." While following Langdon and Vetra's hurried treasure hunt using a map constructed by Galileo Galilei himself, rich descriptions of Rome will transport you to its cobblestoned streets and keep you reading way past your bedtime.

Brown's strength in combining fact and fiction may sometimes make it difficult to separate the two, yet it only leads you to realize that the human mind, when driven to achieve lofty ends, is quite limitless in its design.

Available in paperback at PowerBooks and National Book Store

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com



LIFESTYLE

Beach vacation essentials

WHEN I start bringing out my little tank and tube tops, it can only mean one thing: The summer heat is bordering on intolerable. And when the sun's rays come close to torturous, I put one of my little tops on, pack a couple more and head down to the nearest strip of sand.



Lora Gabol

The beach is the only place that welcomes the scorching summer sun with open arms! And it's the only place, of course, where traipsing around in swatches of cloth and strings is acceptable.

With glistening, half-naked bodies on pristine shores, summer's theme becomes more apparent. The hot month of April isn't just about the sun, sea and sand. It's about skin. Skin and skin damage.

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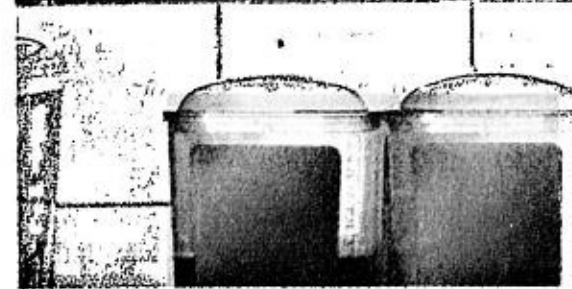
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Beach vacation essentials

The laid-back, lazy beach atmosphere is bound to leave you carelessly making yourself vulnerable to the evils of the sun. While it's tempting to rush out to bake, keep in mind what Brigitte Bardot didn't: Rays today, raisins tomorrow.

Now this doesn't mean a doomed holiday in the shade. Packing the essentials of a beach vacation—an anti-sun-damage arsenal of products—is the key. Leave some room in your suitcase for this tried-and-tested beach bunny beauty loot.

Skin care

Skipping sun protection equals death by leathery skin. Try to bring a couple of tubes of sun block, one for the face and one for the body. I use a higher SPF for my face (since I know it burns faster than my body), and a slightly lower one for my body.

During a recent Boracay gig, I couldn't get out of my room with Shiseido's Extra Smooth Sun Protection Crème for the face with SPF 38. I loved how it left a dewy sheen on my face and still allowed a subtle tan despite its high SPF. And yes, it was really extra smooth and an absolute pleasure to apply.

Remember to put more on your forehead (work all the way up to your hairline), nose and the top of your cheeks. This will ensure an even tan. I used it on my neck and nape as well. I felt they deserved as much TLC as my face. For a protected pout, I slicked on Nivea Sun Lip Balm with SPF 25.

While it's tempting to rush out to bake, keep in mind what Brigitte Bardot didn't: Rays today, raisins tomorrow



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

If you're the type who turns red and splotches up instead of turning golden, I suggest you put on a layer of Phytomer's Accept Anti-Blotch Cream. Best for sensitive skin, it prevents possible adverse reactions to UV rays like allergies.

For my body, I used VMV Hypoallergenic Armada Body Cover with SPF 30 before stepping out. The non-greasy formula is cool and refreshing, and provides just enough protection while allowing some color to seep through.

I used this on my first two days, when my friends insisted I was so white, "Sunlight is reflecting off you," and realized my skin still required more powerful SPF. When I had already built up a

toasty tan, I moved on to the SPF 20 of Nivea Sun Spray, the most convenient sunblock in a spray bottle. You can tote it around in your beach bag and look pretty chic spritzing it on!

A tanning tip: In the past, I'd turn red and develop sunburn before I actually tanned. Oh, wait, I never really tanned. This time, however, I discovered the magic of virgin coconut oil (in Boracay, you can purchase this for P100 a bottle from the massage ladies on the beach, or you can use Hawaiian Tropic's Tanning Oil as an alternative).

Don't make the mistake of applying it alone. I layer it over my sunscreen, get some good sun (stay away from the 10 a.m.-2 p.m.), and hope I turn into a

bronzed goddess. Okay, so I'm no Gisele, but at least I'm actually a few shades darker than my original albino complexion!

Hair care

Never leave your hair at the mercy of the sun! While a hat or bandanna works, it is still best to have products that keep those delicate strands protected.

A friend was complaining about how her hair was close to getting fried. I brought her to my room and doused her sunned mane in Kerastase Soleil Non-Oily UV Protection Spray. This baby was my best beach buddy! I loved how it kept my hair soft, smooth and shiny without weighing it down.

It was also my makeshift styling

product. It kept my hair in place when it was tied, and kept it from frizzing up when it was down.

A beach babe hair tip: If you want natural waves, tie your hair in a bun, put it up with chopsticks (I love this trick!), or wear it in a couple of braids when damp. Once dry, wear hair down and sport pretty curls on the beach.

For serious protection and damage control, grab the entire Kerastase Soleil set (it comes with a shampoo and treatment cream).

After-sun care

Yup, you need products after you catch those rays. I loved to relax with either Shiseido's Intensive Repair After-sun Lotion (it's great for the face!) or Phytomer's Instant Repair Soothing Moisturizing Milk (I'd use it on my body

and hair). Taking care of your skin post-sun maintains your glow and prevents peeling.

Makeup

Leave your kikay maleta at home! You can get away without a perfectly powdered face, so prettify with a dusting of bronzer and a coat of gloss on your lips.

Try Shiseido's Luminizing Powder in Bronze (it comes in a twist-and-brush tube that's totally handy!) and Pout's clear lip polish (you can also use a little on your lids).

If you must have coverage, opt for a sheer, dewy foundation. Shiseido's Waterproof Liquid Foundation keeps your face looking flawless without the "mask" effect.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

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TRIBE Ngekers looks forward to enjoying the Boracay sun and surf with P50,000 spending money after beating nine other tribes to emerge as the ultimate PLDT Vibe CyberTribe.



PLDT senior manager for retail marketing media Dodie Lucas, "Eat Bulaga" hosts Toni Gonzaga, Leila Kuzma and Paolo Ballesteros, PLDT promo manager Ana May Jovellanos and vice president for retail marketing Tony Valdez

Rewarding the coolest 'barkada' all in a days

THE BATTLE for the coolest barkada on and offline went full blast last March 13, at the SM Megamall Building A Atrium as groups of teens nationwide squared off for a chance to become the one, the only, the ultimate PLDT Vibe CyberTribe.

Tribe Ngekers outwitted, outplayed and "outvibed" nine other tribes, snagging the elusive title of PLDT Vibe CyberTribe and other juicy rewards,

including a sizzling Boracay summer spree, a brush with fame on MTV and a whopping P50,000 in cold cash.

Capping the day's events was a concert featuring the rocking rhythms of MYMP (Make Your Mama Proud) and Ntwine.

Vibe Internet prepaid cards are available nationwide in P100 and P300 denominations.

Visit www.pldtvibe.com



MTV VJ Patty Laurel



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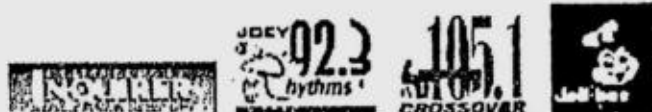
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A purchase of a P150 Sun Cellular Prepaid Call card will also entitle you to a scratch card.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1035, Series of 2004.

LIFE STYLE

to be you • to be young
To be you! • To be young



Plunge as you please

YOU'D think the Boracay post-Holy Week scene would be less action-packed, that it would be celebrity-free and devoid of bodies in the sand? Guess again.

But last weekend drew a whole slew of students, celebs and partyphiles out to stretch summer to its fullest extent. At the center of the beachside shebang, the Nestea Beach Volley 2004 combined fun, frothy frolicking with sporty seduction!

Universities from all over the country rubbed elbows and served and spiked balls against each other—with 24 teams from 19 schools in the final rounds soaking it up on Bora's shores.

"We flew more than 300 people for this event, now on its eighth year!" said Tina Samaca, my favorite thirst quencher's product manager, right after our team—Team Plunge—won the Nestea Celebrity Volley Challenge!



Tim Yap

PLUNGE/F3

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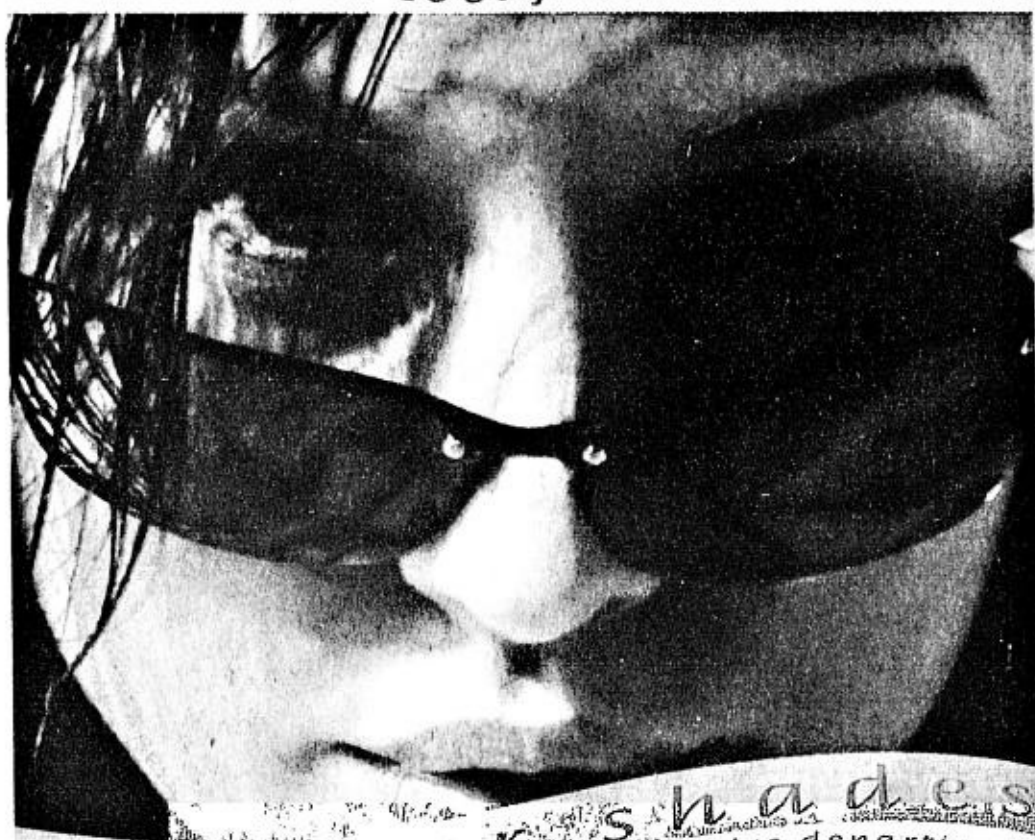
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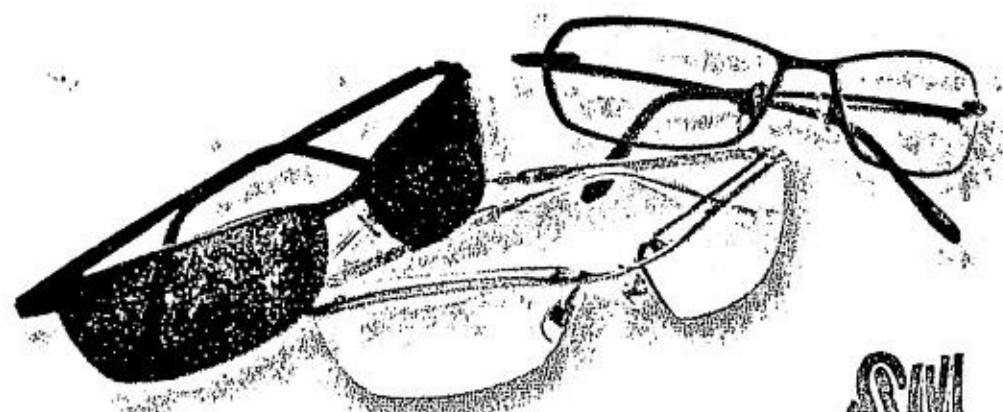
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Men: Holiday Inn, Galleria Manila
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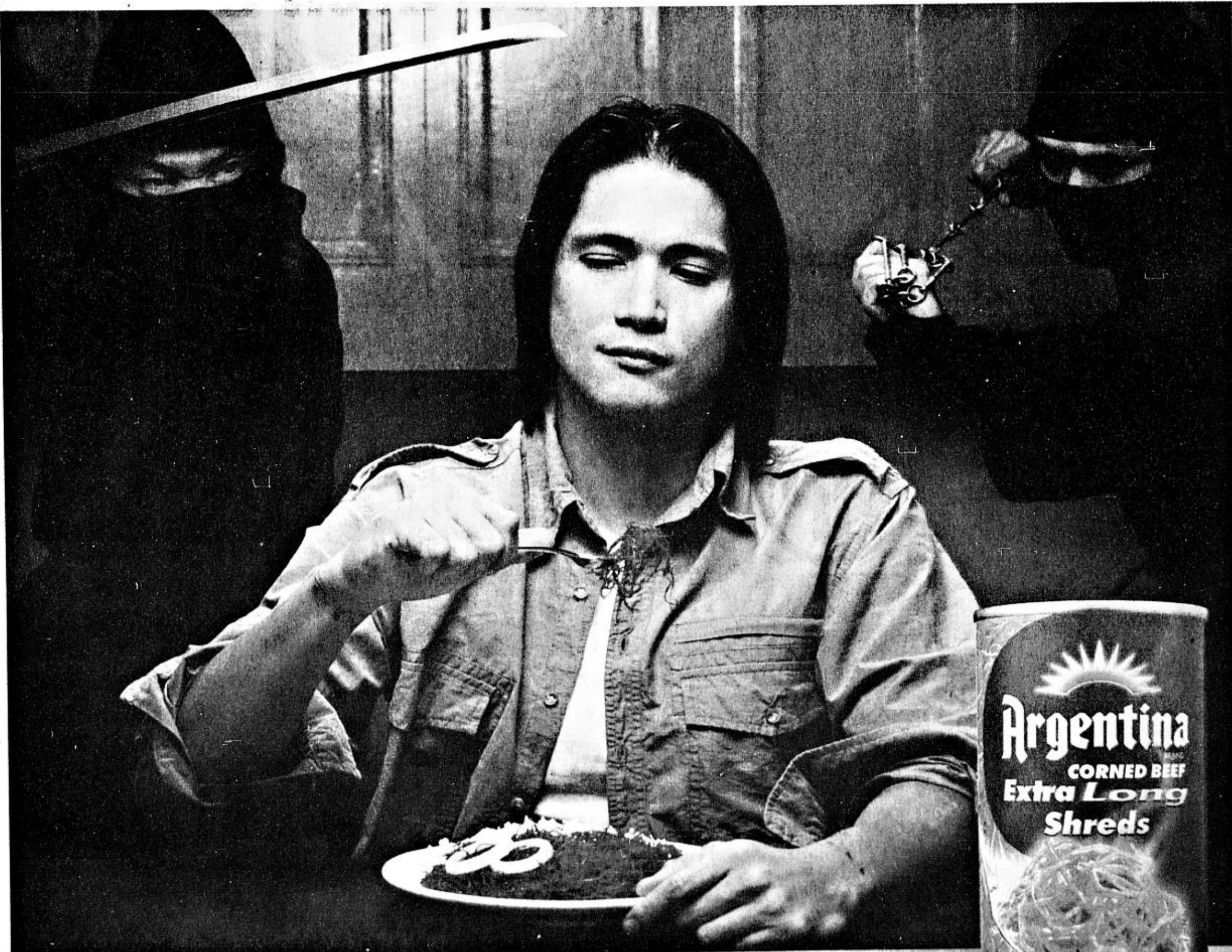


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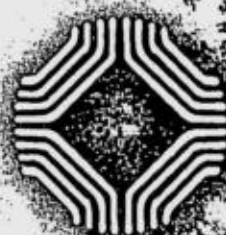


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PLDT

[Mode+]

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Mode+!'s exclusive preview of
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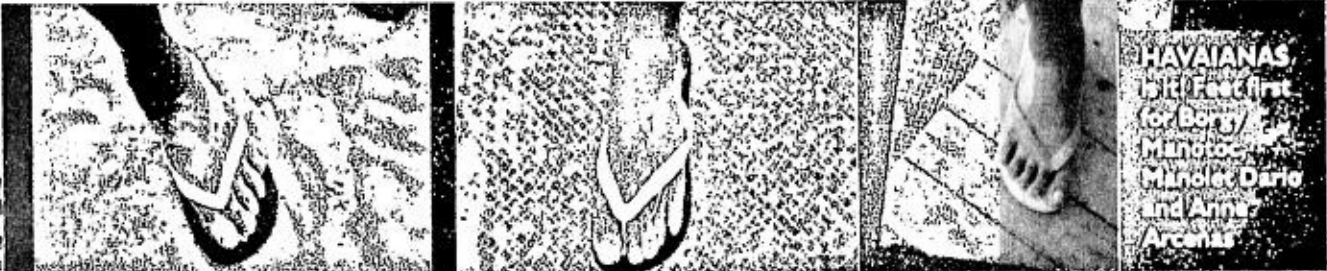
NBC TENT, THE FORT





HAVIN' IT: Martin Valdes, Anne Arcenas and Isha Andaya
PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

ME with DJ Kristian Hernandez



HAVAIANAS: Flip-flop first for Bory, Manotoc, Maribel, Dario and Anna Arcenas



METRO FASHION SPREAD: Romina Gonzalez beats in the sun

Plunge as you please

From page F1

Daytime highlight were the volleyball games. Nocturnal highs consisted of non-stop partying that the island offers, more intoxicating than bottomless Jam jars.

Other celebrities were spotted at the Studio 23 and Lifestyle Network events, the "Bora Bound" party and at the Mossimo Bikini Summit. But that's another set of stories.

For now let us concentrate on the (volley) balls and belles on the island. After playing at the Nestea V ball courts, I realized that nothing beats that natural high (of course, also because we won) that healthy stuff like sports could supply. Plus, of course, after all that sweating, I found it fun to lay out, relax—and then head to the beach to party and sweat some more.

For now, let me just take a swig off my iced concoction as I cool down and chill out.

PLUNGE/F4



BORG: Manotoc loves Bora, too much

BIANCA: Araneta at the beach

CHALK: Talko, Mago, Pagayo and Angelo Comita

THIRST QUENCHER: Wabbe, Tanya Escaler and Alvaro

PRINTA: Pesta

BACCHUS BOHEMIAN: Bacchus Zulueta on business mode

FAMILY TIME: Mar's Nephew, sister Yolanda, Stef Kienle, Mar and Jessica Kienle

UP UP AND AWAY: Dustin Reyes, it's one hot actor on the rise

ROWING AGE: Roylan, Enzo and Enzo

ROW WOW: Pesta

DANCE: The best with Mary Ann and Sherry

TANTRIG: Ton Lao and Eugene Enrique

NESTEA PLEASE: Sherwin Shakramy and Celine de Niendre

NESTEA UNLIMITED: Dyan Castillejo and Rich Herrera

FIVE STARS: Hans Montenegro with Mossimo winner Thea Kriegl

DIRECT YOGA: Robbie Carmona and Jon Jon Rufino



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1686, Series of 2004. See the "Charge & Drive" flyers for details.



COUSINS INASAL
Jan La'O and Jake
de la Paz

Plunge as you please

From page F3

And the winners are:

CELEBRITY TOURNAMENT

Team Plunge—Marc Nelson, Dyan Castillojo, Rich Herrera, Tim Yap, Robbie Carmona and Celine De Neindre

WOMEN'S

First place: Southwestern University (Florian Gutierrez and Marites Natad)
Second place: University of the Visayas (Janez Armie Igot and Joyce Nunez)
Third place: Adamson University (Kristine Dave and Hannah Suarez)

MEN'S

First place: University of San Jose-Recoletos (Michael Simbalon and Jonrey Sasing)
Second place: De La Salle University (Janley Patrona and Hansel Go)
Third place: Foundation University (Rolando Aguas, Kent Bulabon)



BEST in
bikini.
Tina P. in
Chloe



SPICY
Ginno
Rufino



MARIYA at
Cocomangas

SPOTTED on a
Sunday: Richard
Gutierrez and
Anne Curtis



PAOLO
Valenciano and
Nikki Recto

TONGLEN
TRENDIES.
Franco Jorge
and Pia Campos



JUDE JAM,
Cousins
Louise and
Peejay with
Jun Jun
Poblador



PHILIPPINE
FASHION WEEK
APRIL 25, 2004
6:00 PM
GLORIETTA
ACTIVITY AREA

WITH

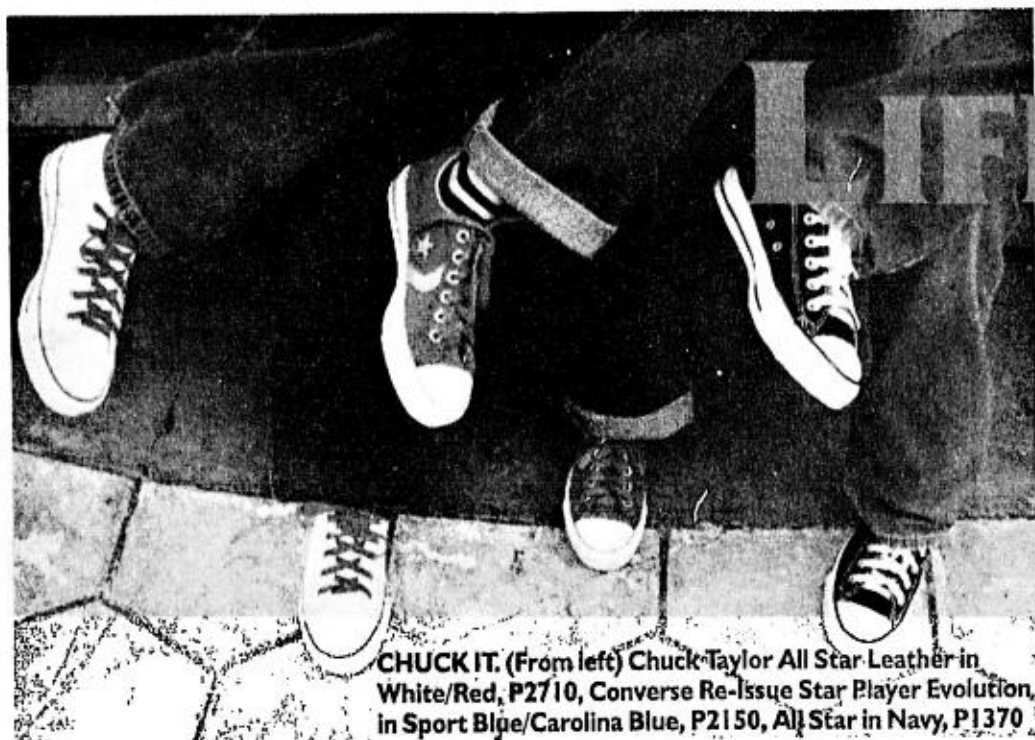


AND

PHILIPPINE

BUM EQUIPMENT/BUM G

GENSTAR



CHUCK IT. (From left) Chuck Taylor All Star Leather in White/Red, P2710, Converse Re-Issue Star Player Evolution, in Sport Blue/Carolina Blue, P2150, All Star in Navy, P1370

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

THIS isn't your regular fairytale. There is a prince, yes, but there is no princess.

No princess with a glass slipper, only pairs of Chuck Taylors.

And inside this Enchanted Kingdom, there is no wicked witch, no poisonous apple, no evil stepmother, no conflict.

Just lots of action.

There are clowns and jesters, silver robotic people, dancers in glittery dresses and a purple wizard. There is a carousel of magic horses, a giant wheel that would bring you closer to the sky, seats that jumpstart journeys into the unknown, trips that blur the lines between fantasy and reality and constant

TAYLORED/G2



ALL rolled up. Star t-shirt P420, pinstriped shirt P850, denim shorts P650

Style and flair are for guys, too

By Jason Doplito
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

Nowadays, real men wear pink. And then they report for work. In this era, when demarcation lines have been blurred by mainstream media, rock bands and pop icons, what is cool goes only as far as your confidence can take you. Symbols,

STYLE/G2



The scent of stripes

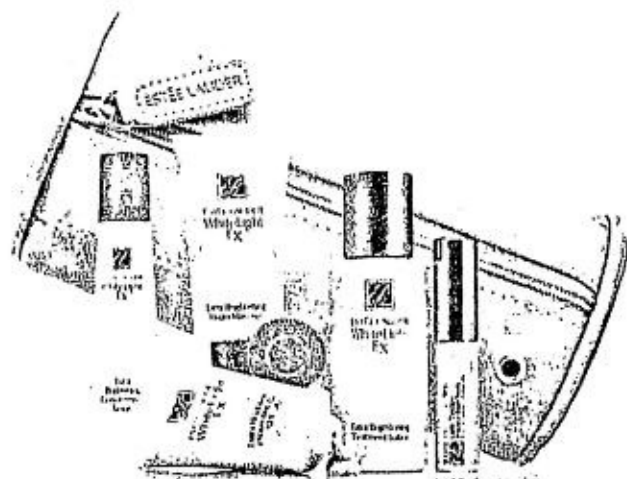
By Tim Yap

AN ENGLISH high tea, served with Sir Paul Smith's trademark traditional sense of style—with a twist, of course—celebrated the launch of his fab four new scents at his Shangri-la Plaza boutique.

THE SCENT/G4

2BU! FASHION FREAKS

Taylorored for your feet



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YOUR FREE 6-PC GIFT WORTH OVER P6,500 WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY TWO ITEMS FROM WHITELIGHT EX RANGE.

Give a gift of brilliance. Now, instant radiance can be yours with Estée Lauder's innovative Whitelight EX Extra Brightening collection.

From April 21 – May 1, 2004.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1752, Series of 2004.

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HORSEPOWER
Hi-Cut Chuck
Taylor All Star
in Prism
Multicolor
P1850

**RIDING THE
LOOPS** (Front
left) Hi-Cut Chuck
Taylor All Star
Wave in Multicolor
P1650 All Star in
Navy P1370

TIE A BLUE
RIBBON in Converse
Re Issue Star Player
Evolution in Sport
Blue/Carolina Blue
P2150

EBONY IVORY
Hi-Cut Chuck
Taylor All Star
in White P1370
and All Star in
Black Mono
P1370

BOTTOMS UP
Hi-Cut Chuck
Taylor All Star
in Pearl
Stripes P1650

MVP Hi-Cut
Chuck Taylor
All Star in
Black P1370

**TRIBAL
STANGE**
Linen Chuck
Taylor All Star
in Khaki
P2390

**FILL IN THE
BLANK** Hi-Cut
Chuck Taylor All
Star in White
P1370

FOOT FRENZY
(Clockwise, from top)
All Star in Red, P1370
White Hi-Cut Chuck
Taylor All Stars in
White P1370, Chuck
Taylor All Star in Blue
P1650, All Star in
Navy, P1370

BYSTANDER
Converse
Chuck Taylor All
Star in
Linen
Satin/Linen
Royal/Gold
P2150

Taylorcored for your feet

From page G1

challenges that separate the brave and the gutsy from the cowardly twerps.

The four-hour fairytale wasn't just a fairytale—it was a quest, a cat-and-mouse chase between my camera lens and those good old Chuck Taylors.

It was quite an adventure.

The Kingdom dimmed its lights to rest before another full day, but the adventure wasn't over yet.

The 15 happy, albeit a bit smudged, pairs of Chucks said goodbye to the tired photographer and flew off to create more rainbows.

And they all lived happily ever after—at least that's what the narrator said.

Converse Chuck Taylors are available in Converse stores at the G/L of Ali Mall, Cubao, Quezon City; Ever Gotesco Mall at Don Mariano Marcos Ave., Quezon City; and in leading department stores nationwide.

Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

LOOSEN up with
this monochromatic
getup. Khaki shirt
P950, gray chino
P1200

POWERPUFF
or
Powerbuffed?
Floral-printed
shirt P950, blue
denims P990

Style and

WHITE is the color to beat the
summer heat. Linen shirt P850,
cargo shorts P720



Once upon a time...

This is your chance to spin your own fairy tale. 24/7 and Converse have joined forces to bring you a special contest. Dress up your child's look in the most creative and wearable innovation of Converse shoes & socks. If you are 18 to 19 years old, jazz up your look with Converse Trainers. Include in your entries for screening: name, Converse shoe & 24/7 socks. Taking place at Exchange Road, Pagsanjan Center, Pagsanjan, from Monday to Saturday. Thank you to our readers for their participation in our only online contest. Prizes will be awarded.

For inquiries, call 665-4515 (Lorena) or 665-9009 (Joyce) or 665-1732 (Joyce).

FEET UP Hi-Cut Chuck Taylor All Star Wave in Multicolor, P1650, Chuck Taylor All Star in Blue, P1650, Converse Re-Issue Star Player Evolution in Sport Blue/Carolina Blue, P2150, Linen Chuck Taylor All Star in Khaki, P2390

WHERE
fantasy meets
reality

Enchanted Kingdom turns 9

CELEBRATE Enchanted Kingdom's ninth year anniversary starting April 24. There is a fireworks competition on the night of the 24th. "Movies Under the Stars" will feature wholesome films like "Finding Nemo," "Big," "Lizzie McGuire" and "Richie Rich" until May 2. On April 25, Cinderella will unveil its summer collection at the Bandstand and South Border will have their "Rainbow Concert" at the Midway Boardwalk.

Enchanted Kingdom is located at Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Call 8302111 to 17; visit their office at G/F Tropical Palms Condominium, 103 De la Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; or visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

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FOOT MODELS: CHRISSE CAPICOT, FELICE CAPICOT, RUTH NAVARRA AND ARVIN DE GUZMAN.
LOCATION: ENCHANTED KINGDOM

flair are for guys, too

Novecento
is at the forefront
of men's fashion
because of its
stylish cuts,
daring colors and
contoured lines

From page G1

borders and boxes are the mental blocks of the mind. When one is freed from conventions and rules, everything falls into perspective.

Novecento has made it to the forefront of men's fashion because of its stylish cuts, daring colors and contoured lines. It goes where other brands don't: force men into clothes that actually fit. Guys have been traditionally afraid to show their bodies, hence the baggy shirt and pants. But that is all changing as male vanity takes center stage in the new era.

Taking their inspiration from European magazines, owners Merle Tiongson and Jon Dona show their seriousness in becoming trendsetters. Though the store carries a lot of the classic shirts and slacks meant for the older segment of their market, they are also conscious of the emerging market that is the metrosexuals.

"We did start out as a corporate wear, but now we're adding more designs to our casual line," says Merle. "We've already established our name with the mature men and now we want to cater to the younger crowd."

This shift in design is proving to be worth-

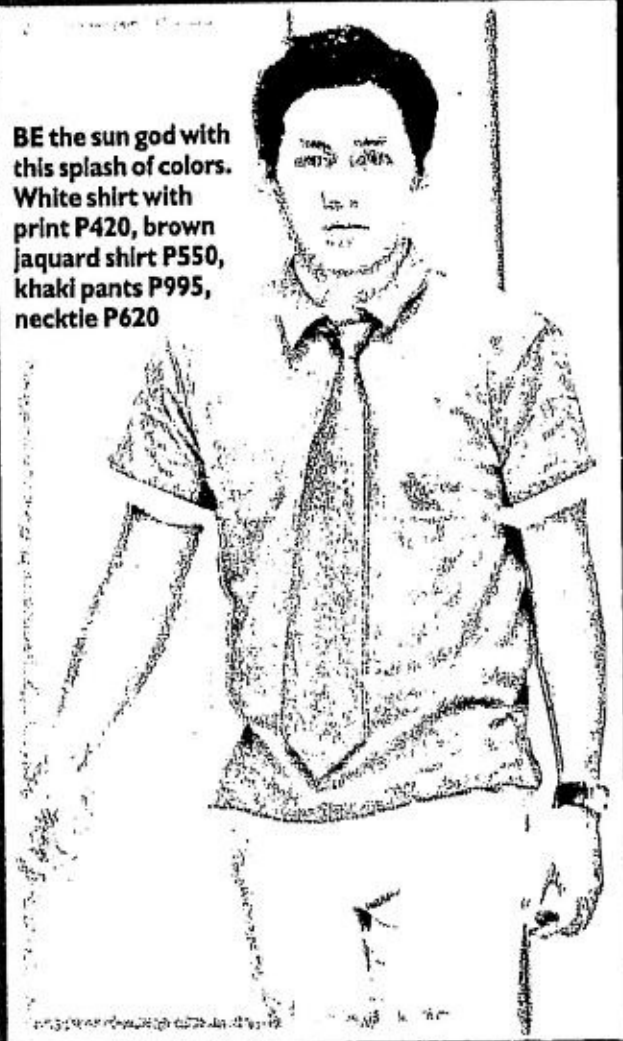
while for Novecento. Little by little, it is establishing itself as a style authority for men, judging from the number of fashion pictorials that feature the brand. And the growing popularity shouldn't rattle the shop's avid consumers. Merle says they consciously limit their clothes production, so it's unlikely for a customer to bump into somebody wearing the exact Novecento shirt.

Though one may get the impression that its clothes may be too wild for the conservative Pinoy's taste, the opposite is actually true. Novecento's slim fit creates a very streamlined look that can go from corporate wear by day to party get-up by night. It's far from the dowdy yuppie wear that most of us have gotten used to, yet stylish enough to be worn at upscale bars and restaurants.

For this shoot, the Fashion Freaks show how lazy summer days are no excuse for not looking good. And that real men do wear pink.

Novecento has stores in Glorietta 2, Robinson's Galleria and Shangri-La Mall. Visit www.novecento.com.ph

BE the sun god with this splash of colors. White shirt with print P420, brown jaquard shirt P550, khaki pants P995, necktie P620



ADDITIONAL STYLING BY PAM PASTOR, GIFF RICARTE, MERWIN FLORES AND GILES AQUINO
MODEL: RA

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CLASSIC. Ornussa Cadness in Paul Smith's simple lines



EXTREME PAUL SMITH. Traian Vasile in cool Britannia



SCRATCH AND SNIFF. Kirsten Shills in Paul Smith fashion



PS. I LOVE YOU. Vicky Marchadesch and Mia Nolasco-Cuenca of Luxasia, with Carmela Gana



SMELL ME. Michael Seifert in Paul Smith's summer stripes

The scent of stripes

From page G1

With a wickedly decadent sense of humor, a stuffed Paul Smith bunny greeted guests. A trunk show featuring four models in Paul Smith's 2004 Spring/Summer Collection, each representing a scent, came out in signature stripes, and then proceeded to spray the scent on the intimate crowd that had gath-



PAUL SMITH MEN. Carlo Rufino and Juan Miguel Ongsiako of Paul Smith boutique

ered for some post-Easter sniffing.

"I adore simple pleasures. They are the last refuge of the complex."

If Oscar Wilde, who said these lines, were alive today, he would have savored visiting the Paul Smith stores every day—sharing witticisms with style-setters Juan Miguel Ongsiako and Carlo Rufino, trend-spotting and dissecting fashion in a most charming and fun way.

I could envision Mr. Wilde having his trousers slim-fitted by Louie Claparols while having tete-a-tete with Marga Montemayor, as Legolas look-alike Tadi de Leon shows him the newest line of finely crafted shirts and cuffs. Oscar gamely tries on a new pair of sneakers with the help of Rocky Custodio, while admiring Joan Cantamprate's quirky and contemporary sense of style.

Same goes with the scent. Luxe, luxe lady Mia Nolasco-Cuenca sprayed a whiff of each scent on different parts of my body—and immediately, another love affair was born (between me and the scent, not between me and her). Vicky Marchadesch sensed the stripey seduction and continued to sashay in her killer combination of Paul Smith clothes and fragrance.

Paul Smith Extreme, which I smelled off Juan Miguel's neck, exudes the richness of wood and modern musk. Paul Smith classic captures the southern European countryside in full bloom. Ah, the sheer intoxication!

"The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it. Resist it, and your soul grows sick with longing for the things it has forbidden for itself."

Oscar Wilde can't be wrong. Wearing Paul Smith stripes, go ahead and look for that genie in a bottle.



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STRIPES PLEASE. Carlo inside the Shang boutique



SWEET SEDUCTION. Sandra Seifert



MOTHER PREVIEW. Xeng Zulueta and Pauline Suaco-Juan



SUMMERY fragrance. Donna Cuna-Pita and Agoo Bengzon



FEARLESS STRIPES. Ianne and Myrza Sison



LUX GIRLS. Mikka Genito and Donna Faylona



VIVACIOUS. Vanessa Mayuga



FOXY. Farah Reyes, Enage and Leslie Roque

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